

Amnesty wants rights monitored in Hebron

LONDON (R) — Amnesty International said on Friday the mandate for an international force being sent to the Israeli-occupied West Bank town of Hebron should be extended to include the monitoring of human rights. "The mandate (of the force) is vague, we want it to include monitoring of specific human rights like... the right to life and the right not to be tortured," a spokesman for the London-based human rights group said. Norway, Denmark and Italy are sending 160 troops and policemen as observers to Hebron, where more than 30 Palestinians were massacred by a Jewish settler in a mosque on Feb. 25. The Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH) was agreed last month in Cairo after talks between Israel, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and the three participating nations. The force has a mandate to provide "a feeling of security to the Palestinians of Hebron" and "promote stability." Amnesty said it was the first mandated monitoring force in the West Bank. A more defined mandate is still being negotiated and Amnesty expects the force to be in Hebron within two weeks. It will only observe events and will report to a joint Israel-PLO committee.

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U.N. ballistics team leaves Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — A team of United Nations ballistics experts left Baghdad on Friday after completing the first part of a 30-day mission to inspect missile facilities in Iraq. Their task is to set out the type of monitoring the U.N. would need at individual sites to ensure that Iraq does not acquire weapons of mass destruction again. The team is to visit Iraq for a total of 30 days over the next two months. Team leader John Larabee told reporters that the mission had been successful so far and that the Iraqis had complied fully with U.N. requests. A team of U.N. biological experts was expected to arrive in Baghdad later on Friday.

Saddam building 'alternative capital'

CAIRO (R) — The London-based opposition to the Iraqi government said on Friday that President Saddam Hussein was developing a large area northwest of Baghdad as an alternative capital in case he needed one. The free Iraqi Council, in a faxed report, said the government had already expanded its installations on the northern shore of Lake Tharthar, where President Saddam has a palace. The installations included a backup joint operations centre, buildings for special security forces and a detention camp for important prisoners, it said. The lake lies about 140 kilometres northwest of Baghdad and the northern shore is close to Tikrit, President Saddam's hometown.

Zhirinovsky in Duma scuffle — deputy

MOSCOW (R) — Russian nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky was involved in a brief scuffle with a breakaway member of his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in parliament on Friday, witnesses said. An LDP spokesman said the incident was provoked by a journalist who interfered in a discussion between the two men. Valery Borshebov, a member of the centrist Yabloko grouping, said he saw Mr. Zhirinovsky standing in the corridors outside the debating chamber shouting angrily at Vladimir Borzyuk, who has been formally expelled from the LDP for opposing his leadership. "Zhirinovsky then seized Borzyuk," Borshebov said. "I stepped in to drag them apart." Minutes earlier Mr. Zhirinovsky, involved in a similar scuffle in the Duma parliament's canteen in January, had denounced Mr. Borzyuk in the chamber as a traitor.

Kuwait floats idea of confederation

KUWAIT (R) — A confederation might be a viable option for any two Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states wanting to boost security, a senior Kuwaiti official has said. "Living in units of bigger space" under a "merger" of states might be one element in a future security policy mix. Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Suleiman Al Shaheen said this week. Mr. Shaheen was speaking hypothetically and in his personal capacity on Monday to a conference of Kuwaiti and foreign academics on the consequences of Iraq's 1990-91 occupation. He did not say whether he envisaged a confederation leading to outright political unity and did not identify any countries he thought might be suitable candidates for a confederation.

Nirvana star found dead

SEATTLE (Agencies) — Nirvana lead singer Kurt Cobain died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound, a Seattle radio station said Friday. Seattle radio station KIRO said the body had been identified as that of Cobain, 27. Seattle police said earlier that a body of a white man in his 20s with a suicide note nearby had been found at Cobain's home, but they did not identify the body.

Occupied territories face indefinite closure

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's most concerted sweep ever Friday to purge the country of Palestinian workers from the occupied territories after a series of attacks on Israelis will likely be extended indefinitely, officials said.

Agriculture Minister Yaacov Tsur told reporters after a four-hour meeting of the special security cabinet that the government would seek an open-ended closure.

Mr. Tsur said the measure was designed "to restore a feeling of security to Israelis." Israel would import foreign workers to replace the tens of thousands of Palestinians kept out, he said.

At Friday's meeting, ministers expressed "condemnation and rage" over the attacks this week, Rabin spokesman Oded Ben-Ami said. He said ministers would also debate an extended closure at the regular cabinet session Sunday.

The extraordinary session came after the army ordered the occupied territories closed Thursday night, barring travel to Israel by the two million Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. All vehicles were banned.

Police Minister Moshe Shabai said 400 Palestinians had been caught, some who had been living illegally in Israel for months, and their employers fined heavily for giving them jobs and places to sleep.

A car-bomb Wednesday and a shooting attack Thursday, both carried out by Palesti-

nians who crossed into Israel, left eight Israelis dead and almost 50 wounded. Two Israelis were also stabbed and slightly wounded by Arabs at entrances to the Gaza Strip.

The Hamas group warned in a leaflet Thursday that they would wreck "independence day" celebrations with a series of attacks to avenge the Feb. 25 Hebron massacre, when a Jewish settler shot dead more than 30 Muslim worshippers.

Speaking on army radio, Mr. Shabai said the current closure would be more strict than previous ones. "The difference this time... can be referred to as cleaning the area of residents from the territories staying in Israel without permits," he said.

Mr. Shabai said it was time to wean the country from Palestinian labourers from the occupied territories, mostly construction and farm workers.

"The Palestinians have to know that there is an economic price to pay for attacks, and we in Israel must know that we get by without them and can get by without them today," Mr. Shabai said on Israel Radio.

Before the full closure was ordered, army officials said about 30,000 Palestinians had work permits. The figure has dropped from 120,000 since a series of stabbings in March 1993.

The dragnet affected U.S. civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, here to address an academic conference organised

by Hebron University to mark the 30th anniversary of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Israel barred the conference as a security risk and his convoy was stopped repeatedly on the way to tour Hebron (see separate story). Hospitals reported eight wounded by bullets after the Israeli army opened fire on hundreds of Palestinians throwing stones after listening to a Jackson speech.

The closure tightens restrictions in place since the Hebron mosque massacre and brought an immediate outcry from contractors and large agricultural concerns that rely heavily on Arab labour.

Amos Baram, director general of the contractors' association, said Israel should immediately bring in 30,000 foreign labourers. Officials said they were seeking trained construction workers from Thailand and Romania, even though Israel's unemployment rate is about 10 per cent. Most Israelis avoid menial labour because the wages nearly match unemployment checks.

Up to 15,000 foreign construction workers and 3,250 farm workers will be brought into Israel, Israel Radio said. In addition, the government will subsidise salaries to persuade 2,000 Israelis to work on farms.

The attacks, which undermined support for Israel-PLO

(Continued on page 5)

Hosokawa resigns; Tokyo political scene in chaos

TOKYO (Agencies) — Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, mired in a scandal over his personal finances that has paralysed business in parliament, said Friday he will resign.

Mr. Hosokawa told a hastily-called news conference that he had already expressed his intention to resign at an emergency meeting of the cabinet Friday afternoon.

"I have told the leaders of my coalition government and an emergency meeting of the cabinet of my intention to resign," Mr. Hosokawa said. "I have received their approval."

The news threw Japan's already volatile political world into deep confusion, and sent stock prices plunging, though they later bounced back (See page 6).

Mr. Hosokawa, who came to office eight months ago promising to clean up Japan's corrupt politics, would be the fourth of Japan's last five prime ministers to step down because of scandal.

He said that although the questions regarding his finances relate to transactions

that occurred before he took office, they were "something for which I must take moral responsibility."

"I apologise, and ask for your understanding," he said, adding that he made the decision to step down Thursday night after discussing the situation with his wife.

It was unclear when the resignation would take effect.

The Japan Broadcasting Corporation said Mr. Hosokawa's cabinet was expected to resign as early as Saturday. Kyodo News Service quoted a coalition official as saying Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata was the only possible replacement for Mr. Hosokawa.

President Bill Clinton, told of Mr. Hosokawa's decision as he arrived in Minnesota on a midwest trip, said he was sorry to hear the news.

"The president has enjoyed a good and candid relationship with the prime minister and they have worked together on many issues. The president now looks forward to working with his successor and the suc-

cessor government," spokesman Ginny Terzano said.

Mr. Hosokawa, who took office last August pledging to stamp out corruption in public life, was himself felled by allegations of financial impropriety.

He said Friday he had decided to quit to take responsibility for failing to clear up doubts over his financial dealings, and for provoking a four-week opposition boycott of parliamentary business.

The self-proclaimed "Mr. Clean" said there was nothing wrong with two loans he accepted during the 1980s, but acknowledged that new irregularities had just come to light.

"I have discovered that there were legal problems with the way a person, an old friend of mine, was investing my personal funds for a few years from 1981," Mr. Hosokawa went on.

"I have decided that I must clarify my responsibility as a reformist leader."

True to his aloof style, he

(Continued on page 5)

Army massacres reported in Kigali after president killed

KIGALI (Agencies) — Nuns, priests, aid workers and U.N. peacekeepers fell victim to massacres in Kigali as tribal bloodletting and renewed civil war gripped the Rwandan capital.

Some of the killings were blamed by witnesses and Western officials on Friday on members of the Rwandan army and presidential guard.

Soldiers were apparently retaliating for the killing of President Juvenal Habyarimana, a member of the majority Hutu tribe, in a rocket attack on his plane on Wednesday night.

Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana, of the minority Tutsi tribe, was killed by government soldiers on Thursday.

Fighting continued on Friday for a second day around the parliament building which had been the base for an estimated 600 rebels of the predominantly Tutsi Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) who entered Kigali in December

under a U.N.-backed peace plan to end four years of civil war.

France said on Friday that several Rwandan government ministers and leading figures, as well as Belgian, Ghanaian and Bangladeshi U.N. peacekeepers, had been killed in the Central African country.

"We are dismayed by the assassinations, that of the prime minister, those of ministers and of several leading figures," foreign ministry spokesman Richard Duque told reporters. He did not name the ministers or identify the killers.

Belgium said earlier that 10 of its U.N. peacekeepers assigned to protect the prime minister had been killed by soldiers.

Three cabinet ministers and two human rights activists also were reported abducted during the bloodshed in Kigali, which erupted Thursday several hours after the residents of

Rwanda and Burundi died in a plane crash. The Rwandan government said the plane was shot down by unidentified attackers.

President Habyarimana and his Burundian counterpart, Cyprien Ntaryamira, were returning from regional talks on ending decades of strife in their nations between the majority Hutu ethnic group and minority Tutsis. Both presidents were Hutu.

It remained unclear if any group was in control of Kigali. Much of the city was reported without electricity overnight.

Many of the killings were blamed on the Hutu-dominated presidential guard, but armed bands of young men also were seen roaming the streets. In addition, U.N. sources said members of a former rebel movement that was mainly Tutsi broke out of a U.N. compound and reported-

(Continued on page 10)



Two Palestinian women walk past Israeli soldiers watching Muslims on their way to Friday prayers at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque (AFP photo)

U.S. presses Arafat to condemn Afula attack

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Clinton administration is dissatisfied with the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) offer of condolences to the families of Israelis killed and wounded in a series of attacks on civilians.

"We wish they would condemn the violence," Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Thursday evening.

Noting that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin promptly and unequivocally condemned the bloody attack in February on a mosque in Hebron, Mr. Christopher said on PBS's "Macneil-Lehrer newshour" that "we would like to see a comparable statement from the other side, frankly."

Earlier, State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said the United States believes the PLO and Arab governments "should join with the international community... in condemning these acts of violence."

He quickly qualified the statement to say "all acts of violence" and denounced the perpetrators as "enemies of the peace process, itself."

Unlike some Israelis, the State Department does not want Middle East negotiations suspended in protest.

"The people who conduct this violence prey on fear," Mr. McCurry said. "You know, their aim and objective is to raise fears in this region as a way of destroying the peace process."

In Cairo, the PLO issued a statement late Thursday extending its condolences to the families of the victims and saying it hoped "all parties would commit themselves to protecting the peace process."

Mr. Arafat left Cairo for Tunis on Friday after two days in Cairo consulting with the PLO team negotiating with Israel on withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, airport sources said.

Mr. Arafat arrived on Wednesday-to-be close to the negotiations but the Israeli team left within hours to be home in time for a holiday.

Egypt and the PLO failed to persuade the Israelis to send some negotiators back for a day's work on Friday, apparently because Israel was not happy with the PLO's reaction to the suicide carbomb on Wednesday.

The PLO-Israeli negotiations are expected to resume in Cairo on Sunday, after the Sabbath.

On Wednesday, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat walked out when reporters tried to ask him about the bombing of a bus in Afula. The Palestinian group Hamas claimed responsibility.

Asked if the State Department would expect a strong statement, and from Mr. Arafat himself, McCurry replied: "Yes, we would."

He said the administration had informed the PLO and Mr. Arafat that a stronger statement was important.

President Clinton earlier condemned the slaying of civilians in Israel and said violence must not be allowed to derail Middle East peace negotiations.

"I call upon all those committed to the cause of peace to redouble their efforts and to condemn unequivocally these crimes," the president said in a written statement.

"These brutal slayings of innocent civilians are — like the massacre in Hebron — acts of terrorism aimed at stopping the peace negotiations now underway," Mr. Clinton said. "The enemies of peace have not hesitated to use violence to achieve their goal. They must not be allowed to succeed."

He referred to the Feb. 25 massacre at Hebron's Ibrahim Mosque by a Jewish extremist in which more than 30 Muslims were killed.

On Wednesday, the State Department condemned the attack in Afula which left eight dead and scores injured, as "an abhorrent act of violence."

Mr. McCurry said such attacks could be reduced if Israel implemented an agreement with the PLO to extend self-rule to Palestinians on the West Bank and in Gaza. "That can, we believe, erode... support these groups get from average citizens looking for change."

Under the terms of the agreement in which Israel and

(Continued on page 5)

Hariri promises to amend press law

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Prime Minister Rafik Hariri reportedly promised Friday to reconsider a draft news media bill denounced by newspapers as an attempt to muzzle the Lebanese press.

Mr. Hariri's pledge was reported by Mohammad Baalbaki, chairman of Lebanon's newspapers union, and Milhem Karam, head of the reporters union, after an hour-long meeting with the premier.

"The prime minister has undertaken to remedy the situation in a way that will guarantee the full freedom of the press," Mr. Baalbaki told reporters.

Mr. Hariri's Syrian-backed government found itself at war with the media over a draft bill it referred to parliament Thursday which would restrict articles deemed provocative to sectarian dissent or slanderous of a national or foreign head of state.

The bill would make such offences punishable by up to three years in jail and a maximum fine of 500 million Lebanese pounds (\$800,000).

Mr. Baalbaki and Mr. Karam had issued a joint statement before the meeting with Mr. Hariri, vowing a "battle to the bitter end" against the bill.

A government statement after the meeting said Mr. Hariri has called an extraordinary session of his half-Christian, half-Muslim cabinet to amend the bill before it is debated in parliament.

Two leading newspapers, the Independent Al Nahar and the leftist Al Safir, charged Friday the bill would condemn the press to death in peacetime after it survived 15 years of civil war.

"The debate now revolves around how to carry out the execution, by hanging or by firing squad," wrote Tala Salameh, columnist and publisher of the leftist Al Safir daily.

"Empires have fallen and heads have rolled on our land but the press survived," said Ghassan Tuelin, publisher of the Independent Al Nahar, who has served as information minister and U.N. ambassador.

Former Prime Minister

(Continued on page 5)

Israeli soldiers haggle Jackson

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (AP) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson was held up twice at army roadblocks Friday en route to this tense West Bank town while Palestinian organisers of his tour argued with Israeli military officers over security arrangements.

They worked out a compromise, and the American civil rights leader said it was a sign of the new spirit of cooperation between the two peoples.

"You saw this kind of negotiating this morning... there was a debate over who would provide security where. That would not have happened a few years ago," Mr. Jackson told the Associated Press. He spoke as his bus, adorned with two large Palestinian flags fluttering in the front and back, drove through the occupied West Bank.

Mr. Jackson said he came to urge Israelis and Palestinians to stop the violence.

"We must simply appeal to all forces, don't chop down the peace tree because it is bearing fruit," said Mr. Jackson. "We must urge the leadership to be strong enough to rise above their pain and choose coexistence over co-annihilation."

"An eye for an eye, a tooth



American civil rights leader Jesse Jackson on Friday joins Hebron Sheikh Tayseer Al Tamimi in a prayer for the victims of the Feb. 25 massacre at Hebron's Ibrahim Mosque (AFP photo)

for a tooth, a bombing for a bombing, will leave us blind," Mr. Jackson added.

His five-day visit came at a tense time. Eight Israelis were killed this week in two separate attacks by Palestinians in revenge for the Feb. 25 Hebron mosque massacre. In that attack, a Jewish settler killed more than 30 Muslim worshippers.

On Thursday Israel barred all two million Palestinians from the occupied territories from entering Jerusalem. It refused to allow Hebron University to proceed with the Jerusalem Academic conference marking the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) 30th anniversary where Mr. Jackson was due to be the keynote speaker Sunday.

One of the featured speakers was James Zogby, head of the Arab American Institute in Washington. Mr. Zogby is one of the organisers of the "Builders for Peace" project spearheaded by Vice President Al Gore to attract Jewish and Arab investment from the United States for the Palestinian autonomy authority.

Mr. Jackson said Israelis and Palestinians perhaps could take their cue from the non-violent civil rights campaign in the United States in the 1960s.

In Hebron, Mr. Jackson was meeting Friday with PLO and community leaders. He said that on Saturday he planned to visit Afula, the northern Israeli town where seven Israelis were killed in a suicide carbomb attack this week.

Friday's tour got off to a rocky start when the bus was delayed for 90 minutes at Mr. Jackson's Jerusalem hotel.

The army insisted that the bus be escorted by military vehicles, but Palestinian organisers said army jeeps would be turning the bus into a target for stone throwers.

"The flags (on the bus) will provide more protection than all the army vehicles available," said Nabil Jabari, chairman of the board of trustees of Hebron University.

The army relented, but Mr. Jackson's bus was pulled over at the first military checkpoint south of Jerusalem for more haggling over security. It was held up again at an army

(Continued on page 5)

Pelletreau: Mideast violence will not derail peace process

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau on Thursday condemned militants who seek to derail the Arab-Israeli peace talks, and stressed that the recent bloodshed in the Middle East has failed to bring the process to a halt.

"The lesson here is that extremist violence will not stop the peace process. This is true about the slaughter of Palestinians in Hebron. It is equally true about the terrorist bombing, April 6, against Israelis in Afula," he said.

"Such incidents only strengthen our resolve, and the resolve of the regional parties, to move forward in the peace process."

Mr. Pelletreau's remarks at Georgetown University's Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies (CCAS), focused mainly on the importance of the multilateral track of the Middle East peace talks.

"The principles that are accepted and the relationships that are forged in the multilateral may prove to be the crucible of the future Middle East," he said during the CCAS's 19th annual symposium on "Arabs and the New Middle East."

Following is the text of Mr. Pelletreau's address, as prepared for delivery:

Ladies and gentlemen, let me begin by congratulating the Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies for this distinguished gathering. I want to thank the Centre, and Barbara Stowasser in particular, for the invitation to speak on the Middle East peace process.

For many in the Middle East, this is a time of promise and growing expectation. The political leaders engaged in negotiations have started the region's transition from an era of conflict, and they recognise that continued movement toward peace and normal relations is imperative. Yet this will necessarily be a rough road. The obstacles that the process has experienced, and those to come, are not just related to the intrinsic difficulties of the issues under negotiation; as the prospects for peace grow brighter, they also include the growing efforts by extremists to do what they can to sabotage the process.

Today, I want to talk to you about the multilateral dimensions of the peace process, the second of the two tracks or levels established by the October 1991 Madrid peace conference. Although it has attracted fewer headlines than the bilateral track, its achievements and contribution to the overall peace process are worthy of our attention. First, however, let me set the stage with a few remarks on the current scene.

The Hebron detour

Last Feb. 25 the world was stunned by the massacre of worshippers at a Hebron mosque. The impact on the peace process was immediate. Israeli-Palestinian talks on implementing the declaration of principles signed last September stopped. Bilateral talks in Washington involving Israelis, Jordanians, Lebanese, Palestinians and Syrians came to a halt a couple of days before the scheduled recess.

While formal negotiations stopped, contacts between the parties did not. Israelis and Palestinians quickly resumed contact to address the security concerns that came to light with the Hebron massacre. We, Egypt, Norway and Russia energetically engaged with parties to the negotiations. President Clinton and Secretary Christopher were regularly on the phone with Israeli and Arab leaders, and our Middle East peace team twice visited the region.

The results of this diverse diplomatic activity were productive and in conformity with U.N. Security Council Resolution 904. The Israelis and Palestinians reached agreement on security arrangements that will put international observers into Hebron. They agreed on the early deployment of Palestinian police into Gaza and Jericho. And on March 31 the two parties resumed negotiations on implementing the declaration of principles in Cairo with a renewed determination to reach agreement as soon as possible. At the same time, all the parties to the bilateral talks agreed to resume talks in Washington this month. We are consulting with the Russians on dates for the talks.

The lesson here is that extremist violence will not stop the peace process. This is true about the slaughter of Palestinians in Hebron. It is equally true about the terrorist bombing, April 6, against Israelis in Afula. In both cases, we have condemned the cowardly violence against innocents. Such incidents only strengthen our resolve, and the resolve of the regional parties, to move forward in the peace process.

Attention now is properly returning to the substance of the bilateral negotiations. With that in mind, it might be useful to look at the individual negotiations.

The bilaterals

The declaration of principles signed at the White House last September established an ambitious set of objectives toward which Israelis and Palestinians are working. In pursuit of these goals, the parties have been negotiating the modalities for Israeli withdrawal and transferring authority to the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho, and for holding elections for an interim Palestinian self-government in the area. Soon they will negotiate the range of issues associated with Palestinian interim self-government in the rest of the occupied territories.

The U.S. is actively supporting the implementation process. The Donors' Conference to Support Middle East Peace, which we organized and hosted in October, raised more than two billion dollars in commitments from 46 participants for projects that will demonstrate to the Palestinians the tangible benefits of peace. The United States has pledged to provide 500 million dollars in aid over the next five years. Some of this assistance will be in the form of housing for the Palestinians and in non-lethal equipment for their emerging police force. In cooperation with other participants, we created the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee and a World Bank-led Consultative Group to coordinate donor efforts and delivery of the assistance.

Israel-Jordan talks

Israel-Jordanian negotiations have also produced some steps forward. Last fall, following the Israeli-Palestinian breakthrough, Israel and Jordan agreed to a common negotiating agenda and to establish a joint economic commission. Israeli-Jordanian negotiations subsequently yielded a banking agreement and are now proceeding on such practical issues as water and the environment. The time is ripe for these two neighbours to focus on the full range of issues that divide them and promptly reach a full peace agreement.

Syria and Lebanon

The Syrian and Lebanese negotiations with Israel have been conducted to date with seriousness and energy. Differences remain between Syria and Israel on the key issues of land and security and the shape and context of peace. Lebanon and Israel are continuing in their effort to reach agreement on a political frame of reference dealing with the key issues of land and peace, and as a first step, to establish a military committee to discuss the pressing issues of security, especially in southern Lebanon. In this respect, let me reiterate the administration's firm commitment to Lebanon's political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Egyptian dimension

It is important to underscore the timely and positive role of Egypt in advancing bilateral negotiations. By its example, thoughtful advice, and energetic involvement in helping various parties overcome obstacles and apparent impasses, Egypt is making a unique contribution to broadening the peace.

In sum, the bilateral talks have broken new ground on a number of very sensitive issues. Much more work, however, needs to be done to fulfill the promise of peace ushered in by the Madrid conference. We, Egypt and others will remain actively engaged as facilitators of these talks, but it must be emphasised that further meaningful progress will come only through continued direct negotiations.

The multilaterals

The multilateral track of the peace process was designed to complement the bilaterals by bringing a wider array of regional and extra-regional parties together to develop coordinated approaches to regional problems. This also fosters broader human contact between Israelis and Arabs, and demonstrates that peace is not an abstraction, but a vehicle that can bring practical, concrete benefits to people's lives. It is both visionary and very practical. It overarches the bilateral negotiations, establishing a conducive regional environment for progress and buffering periods of bilateral tension and hiatus.

The multilateral track consists of five working groups dealing with key issues affecting the region as a whole — water, the environment, economic development, refugees, and arms control and security. A Steering Group guides the multilateral process, chaired by the U.S. and Russia, as the Madrid cosponsors. The Palestinians regularly join Israel and eleven Arab countries as participants in the multilaterals. And delegations from outside the region — Europeans, Canada, Japan, the U.N. — also take part.

The focus on concrete projects is meant to bring to the peoples of the Middle East early and visible fruits of the peace environment, even before a comprehensive Middle East peace is reached on the bilateral tracks. In addition, beginning in round five, the multilateral participants also began to consider what the Middle East region as a whole might look like after peace is achieved.

Looking to the future

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The next stage

After this period of seminars, information exchanges, and the establishment of professional ties across political boundaries, there has been a quickening pace of activity over the past year, and a marked shift toward concreteness. Examples of this new emphasis on results can be seen in each of the five working groups:

The Arms Control and Regional Security (ACRS) Working Group — which is led by the U.S. and Russia — is close to establishing a communications network revolving regional ACRS participants. A demonstration of search and rescue operations at sea will soon take place.

The Environment Working Group, with Japan in the lead, is working on establishing a centre for marine disaster in the Gulf of Aqaba. In addition, under its aegis, five regional parties are working on a common agenda to control desertification.

The Refugee Working Group, under Canadian chairmanship, completed a study on living conditions of refugees in the occupied territories, which is now being used to set up a Palestinian statistical office there.

The Regional Economic Development Working Group, with the European Union in the chair, endorsed an action plan consisting of thirty-five projects, including feasibility studies and workshops on transportation, tourism, communications, training and agriculture. Well before the signing of the declaration of principles last September, this group commissioned the immensely valuable World Bank study of economic conditions in the occupied territories.

The Water Resources Group, led by the U.S., has installed pilot rain catchment systems to provide new sources of water in the Gaza Strip and is collecting data for regional water data banks. It is also researching desalination technologies worldwide, with a view to establishing a regional research centre and identifying low-cost desalination techniques for use in these poorer regions of the Middle East.

Despite the progress in the multilaterals, Syria and Lebanon have thus far declined to join the process until, as they put it, there is concrete progress in the bilaterals. With the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles last September and since then, there has been substantial forward movement on the bilateral track. We hope that this movement will soon eliminate these artificial impediments to bringing Syria and Lebanon into the process. Meanwhile, we have made a special effort to keep these two governments briefed on progress in the multilaterals so that they can enter in full stride when the time comes.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Naioukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeiss pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 647632

IRBID: Dr. Mohammed Al Hlu 279773
Alquds pharmacy (—)

a common vocabulary and terms of reference.

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The Water Resources Group, led by the U.S., has installed pilot rain catchment systems to provide new sources of water in the Gaza Strip and is collecting data for regional water data banks. It is also researching desalination technologies worldwide, with a view to establishing a regional research centre and identifying low-cost desalination techniques for use in these poorer regions of the Middle East.

Despite the progress in the multilaterals, Syria and Lebanon have thus far declined to join the process until, as they put it, there is concrete progress in the bilaterals. With the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles last September and since then, there has been substantial forward movement on the bilateral track. We hope that this movement will soon eliminate these artificial impediments to bringing Syria and Lebanon into the process. Meanwhile, we have made a special effort to keep these two governments briefed on progress in the multilaterals so that they can enter in full stride when the time comes.

Looking to the future

The focus on concrete projects is meant to bring to the peoples of the Middle East early and visible fruits of the peace environment, even before a comprehensive Middle East peace is reached on the bilateral tracks. In addition, beginning in round five, the multilateral participants also began to consider what the Middle East region as a whole might look like after peace is achieved.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Nidal Dabiche 627195
Dr. Bassem Karadieh 752200
Dr. Yahya Abdul Salam 735027
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shikha 732405
Fire pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 783336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Naioukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeiss pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 647632

IRBID: Dr. Mohammed Al Hlu 279773
Alquds pharmacy (—)

Water Authority 680100



Gazan Ali Talib Al Emmawi, 19, lies dead on the road in front of an army hitholding station near Ashdod where he opened fire on Israeli soldiers on Thursday, killing one and wounding four others before being shot dead. The Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack (AFP photo)

Amnesty voices grave concern over Israeli, Palestinian killings

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amnesty International on Thursday expressed grave concern about recent political killings in Israel and the occupied territories and called on both the Israeli authorities and Palestinian armed groups to observe basic standards of human rights and humanitarian law.

Amnesty International said that the killings of six members of Fatah in the Jabalya refugee camp on March 28 by an Israeli undercover unit was "a classic example" of the heavy-handed methods it had repeatedly complained about to the Israeli authorities. At the same time, Amnesty International condemned the killing Wednesday of seven Israeli civilians by a suicide car-bomber for which the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) claimed responsibility.

The attack, which killed four women, two girls and a man, was described by Hamas as "legitimate retaliation" for the murder of at least 29 Palestinians by an Israeli settler in the Harem Al Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron on Feb. 25, 1994.

In January 1994, in a response to earlier appeals by Amnesty International, Hamas stated that it "is bound by the Islamic Sharia law which sanctifies life, guarantees human rights and strictly prohibits the killings of women, children, clerics and civilians who do not carry arms against Muslims so long as the enemy adheres to the same principle."

Amnesty International condemned such deliberate and arbitrary killings, that violate fundamental principles of humanitarian law. "Respect for such principles must be unconditional," Amnesty International said. "Any violation of human rights or humanitarian law by the Israeli authorities cannot justify the perpetration of such killings. All armed groups should end attacks against civilians immediately."

Amnesty International said that it was renewing its urgent appeal to the Israeli government to review the methods used by its forces following the killings in the Jabalya refugee camp. All six were apparently shot without warning. One may have been summarily executed — he was reportedly shot in the head after having been wounded and apprehended.

"Last year we expressed concern that changes to guidelines on opening fire would permit the killing of armed individuals who were not directly endangering lives without any attempt being made to arrest them, in contravention of international standards on the use of force," Amnesty International said. "In this instance this may well be what happened."

Amnesty International was also concerned about the use of massive firepower in Hebron on March 22 and 23 against several houses in which men sought for arrest by the authorities were suspected to be hiding.

"We have never had satisfactory responses to questions we raised last year about house destruction operations, including what other measures to try to arrest such people are considered before such a drastic measure is taken."

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Turkey decries German ban

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said on Thursday that Germany's decision to suspend arms shipments to Turkey could damage relations between the two countries.

"I told (German Foreign Minister Klaus) Kinkel in a telephone conversation this evening that Turkey and Germany had a very good relationship... and decisions like these jeopardise relations," he said. "Germany must take (the matter) seriously."

Government officials in Bonn said earlier that Germany had suspended arms shipments after reports by human rights activists that the weapons were used to combat Kurdish rebels.

The officials, who declined to be named, said military supplies to North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) partner Turkey would be frozen while Bonn checked the accuracy of the reports.

Mr. Cetin, speaking on Turkish state television, said: "Kinkel said the problem would be discussed in government... and smoothed out."

"Turkey is facing terror but it will resolve this within a democratic framework. Outside help for the PKK can hurt," he added, referring to Turkey's 10-year battle against separatist guerrillas of the Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK).

German human rights activists said last week that Turkey's armed forces were using armoured cars from Bonn, in violation of a 1992 agreement, to combat rebel Kurds in southeast Turkey.

Under the agreement, reached after Bonn barred arms supplies to Ankara following similar allegations, Turkey pledged to use German military equipment solely for NATO defence purposes.

Mr. Cetin told Anatolia news agency that Turkish forces in the southeast were using Russian-bought vehicles and not German cars.

Clinton, Rabin must honour promises—panel

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Elected to office on a promise of political change, President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin must now deliver real benefits from these changes in order to win reelection, according to a panel of U.S. and Israeli political observers.

The panel explored "The Politics of Change: Perspectives from the United States and Israel" during a discussion sponsored by the National Jewish Democratic Council held at the Democratic National Committee headquarters April 6.

Taking part in the discussion were: Nissim Zivli, secretary-general of the Labour Party in Israel; David Wilhelm, chairman of the Democratic National Committee; Thomas Friedman, a Pulitzer-prize winning reporter with the New York Times; and Ann Lewis, a political consultant to the Democratic Party.

Both Mr. Clinton and Mr. Rabin came to office with "extraordinarily ambitious" agendas for change, Thomas Friedman, the panel's moderator, said.

Mr. Rabin's agenda offered a breakthrough in the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians and economic reform. Mr. Clinton also focused on change with plans for economic, health-care, education and welfare reform. Both leaders, Mr. Friedman said, accomplished a great deal in the first year of their administrations.

Mr. Rabin forged "a dramatic breakthrough" in the peace process when Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation signed the declaration of principles, which will give limited self-rule to the Palestinians in the West Bank city of Jericho and the Gaza Strip. Mr. Clinton, too, met with success when Congress approved his budget plan, as well as crime and education reform bills, Mr. Friedman noted.

Now, Mr. Rabin and Mr. Clinton must consolidate and build upon these achievements, Mr. Friedman said. "I think each understands that without a breakthrough on the second fronts, they really will not be able to consolidate their positions and that their hold on government over the long-term will be in peril..."

David Wilhelm agreed with that assessment, saying "the key to success for both parties (the Democrats in the United States and the Labour Party in Israel) is to show continued progress, continued movement, and continued record of accomplishment."

Ann Lewis noted that in order to do this Mr. Clinton and Rabin must build and maintain "legislative majorities and a popular consensus which can make change happen."

Giving the Israeli perspective, Mr. Zivli said the Labour Party won the election for

prime minister because it offered a clear alternative for peace and reform — an alternative the Israeli public was not completely sold on, but was nevertheless willing to give a chance.

Mr. Zivli said: "If I ask myself seriously, 'Did we succeed in the last election to convince our people to change their basic position and this is why we were elected?' — my answer will be, 'No.' However, he said, the Labour Party was able to offer a clear platform based on peace.

"We told very clearly to our people that we are going to make peace, not just only to speak about peace," Mr. Zivli said. "The Labour Party also promised economic reform and a change in priorities, particularly a renewed focus on education, he noted."

"But," he added, "it is clear to us that we were given a chance for four years, and if our alternative policy will not succeed... the right (Likud) will come back in power."

Mr. Zivli said he believes the Labour Party will deliver on its promises: "I believe that in spite of the fact that we have a very thin coalition for peace, we will be able to advance in the process, and I also believe that we'll be able to propose a second package deal on the Syrian issue."

He conceded, however, that preparing the Israeli people for peace with Syria will be one of the Labour Party's biggest

challenges in the next year. While change is important, he said, it must be done "in a very careful way, because all of us, especially on the peace process, are torn between the expectations, the hopes and the fears."

Change, Mr. Zivli added, is not only happening in Israel, but throughout the Arab World as well.

"Syria and the other Arab countries recognise that there is no way to destroy the state of Israel by armed force" and "recognise that there are common interests between the two peoples," Mr. Zivli said.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, he said, saw that peace with Israel is in his people's best interest.

"I believe that we have reached a point where the Syrians are ready and willing to sign and to implement a peace agreement with Israel," Mr. Zivli said, adding that the impact of such an agreement would reverberate throughout the region.

"The changes in Syria open new opportunities for a different reality in the Middle East," he said.

Mr. Zivli is visiting Washington as part of a nine-member delegation of the Israel Knesset observing the workings of the U.S. government and the American-Jewish lobby. Their five-day visit is sponsored by the Association of Reform Zionists and the Religious Action Centre of Reform Judaism.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Le Monde Sous Marin
18:30 Dossier De La Semaine
19:30 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Charlie Chaplin
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Fresh Prince Of Bel Air
21:00 One To One
21:30 The Campbell
22:00 News in English
22:30

Feature film: "Journey To The Centre Of The Earth"

PRAYER TIMES

04:51 Fajr
06:10 Sunrise (Sunrise) Duha
12:37 Dhuhur
16:12 Asr
19:03 Maghreb
19:23 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637285
St. John's Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440



MARCHING FOR HEALTH: Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Friday leads marchers on a five-kilometre walk organised by the Health Ministry in cooperation with Jordan Dentists Association, Royal Jordanian (RJ), the Orthodox Club and Haya Arts Centre to mark World Health Day and the "Year of Healthy Oral Hygiene." In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Princess Haya said the march is aimed at encouraging the participation of various institutions, including the ministry of health and the medical sector in carrying out health education and awareness promotion campaigns. Princess Haya said the march also seeks to highlight the importance of dental care and to enhance public health concepts. Participating in the march were Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas in addition to some 4000 marchers. The event started from Haya Arts Centre in Shmeisani and ended at the Orthodox Club in Abdoun (Petra photo)

At the ivory keyboard with Ammar Hachicho

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In a month marked by several "quartet" concerts, Ammar Hachicho's solo piano recital is bound to stand out.

The young 24-year-old maestro will play at the Philadelphia Hotel tonight. Last year, in January, Mr. Hachicho delighted his audience in Amman with a striking performance.

German-born Ammar Hachicho began his musical education early. At the age of 10 he wrote his first compositions. After a very successful series of concerts he gave in Germany while pursuing his studies, Mr. Hachicho was

awarded a scholarship to join the prestigious Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow.

Among his many awards is the First Prize at the "Rovere D'Oro" international piano contest in Italy last year.

Tonight's programme will feature pieces by Bach, Beethoven, Liszt, Chopin, Scriabin, Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky.

Talking to the Jordan Times, Mr. Hachicho explained that the choice he made should prove to be very attractive to all audiences.

He talked in details about the unique, genuine musical spirit he has found in Russia and deplored the trend in Western Europe where he says "young pianists and their

teachers alike, seem to concentrate on technique and speed rather than original, sincere musicality and beauty of sound."

The reason behind this situation are probably the overall fast "tempo" of modern life in general and the extreme difficulty of the challenge in international piano contests in particular.

Ammar Hachicho displays deep, real love for pure music. His understanding of the classical music world should be reflected in his one-night performance.

The event is presented by the National Music Conservatory — Noor Al Hussein Foundation, in cooperation with Lufthansa Airlines.

Ministry demands union name change or merger JWU members reject call as infringement on unions' rights

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Members of the Jordanian Women's Union (JWU) Friday expressed dismay at and rejected as an infringement on union's rights a memorandum issued by the Ministry of Social Development Wednesday demanding that JWU change its name or unite with the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW).

"We are an independent entity, and the Ministry of Social Development has no authority over us," a member of JWU's administrative committee told the Jordan Times.

The union is one of many registered with the Ministry of Interior, said another JWU member, adding that the request is a legal violation aimed at stripping unions of their independence and monitoring their activities.

During discussions on the memorandum Wednesday at the Professional Association Complex, Amin Shnkair, director general of the Arab Organisation of Human Rights (AOHR), stressed that trade and professional unions have the right to be independent and described unions as "legitimate integration bodies" which represent different sectors of society. He called on the legislative

and executive authorities to refrain from abolishing unions.

"It is the citizens' right to tighten their grip on the rights they have acquired through their unions, and the inability of some to acknowledge these rights as legitimate is no reason to do away with them," said Mr. Shnkair.

Some JWU members told the Jordan Times that the union had received the Ministry of Social Development memorandum via the Ministry of Interior, which governs unions' affairs.

JWU administrative committee member Haifa Jamal told the Jordan Times that

the committee is meeting today to discuss the memorandum. She added that many misunderstandings resulted from the issuance of the official notice, which she described as illegal.

Some JWU members said that they suspected the involvement of the GFJW in contributing to the ministry's demand, and added that both unions have "always had differences," and that compliance with the demand of the memorandum would undermine the JWU.

Other members charged that personal interests were behind the issuance of the ministry's notice, specially that the request has "no legal

basis."

Deputy Bassam Haddadin (Zarga), who attended the Wednesday discussion, urged the government to deal with the issue in a democratic manner that suits the progressive march of the country.

The deputy added that there have been a number of attempts by some groups to "disturb" union's equilibrium.

"These bodies are now a part of the country's, social and political powers," and the government should amend some laws to ensure democracy within these unions," Mr. Haddadin said.

Specialists commend 4-day language disciplines event

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

IRBID — The First International Conference on Literature, Linguistics and Translation organised by Yarmouk University ended Thursday with the vice-chairman of the organising committee, Abdullah Shunnaq, describing the 4-day event as a major cultural function combining three conferences in one.

To have these three distinct and interrelated disciplines discussed in one conference distinguished this cultural gathering from others because scholars and researchers in these various fields were able to exchange ideas of concern to them with their counterparts in the other disciplines, Dr. Shunnaq said.

According to R. Hartmann of the University of Exeter, the conference gave researchers a rare opportunity to exchange ideas on thorny issues that would be difficult for one individual specialist in one field to tackle.

Still having three disciplines in one time-limited conference forced the organisers to conduct sessions in

three separate auditoriums simultaneously leaving participants at odds as to which activities to attend, said some attendees.

Dr. Shunnaq agreed that this might have posed a problem for some, and said that they had to sacrifice some events to attend others.

It would have been more useful had the conference period been extended to 12 days, but this is a long period for participating professors and researchers to be away from their usual commitments, Dr. Shunnaq added.

About 70 researchers from universities in Jordan as well as Arab and foreign countries gathered to participate in reviews of working papers on such subjects as the use of computerised corpora in translation research, problems encountered by translators, teaching translation at universities, translation of texts and their contexts, Arabic lexicography, arabisation and dream as a mode of expression in women's poetry.

Despite the success of the conference, the organisers said, it was still early to decide to make it an annual event.

Tourism yields JD 390m in '93

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's total revenues from tourism in 1993 is estimated at JD 390 million, according to a statement Friday by Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan.

To promote the tourism industry and ensure more income, he said, the ministry plans to cooperate with the private sector to stimulate related activities.

The plan entails providing the essential infrastructure and basic services as well as introducing legislation for the encouragement of investment in the tourism sector, said the

minister.

There are also plans to re-activate a former body which comprises representatives of the private and public sectors to promote tourism activities and present new concepts for the industry, said Dr. Adwan.

The minister, who was speaking during a press meeting held in his office, said that the Ministry of Tourism is currently preparing a comprehensive study of the tourism situation in the Kingdom, listing all the obstacles that impede the industry and measures that could help overcome such

problems.

Before embarking on executive plans, said Dr. Adwan, new legislation should be introduced and a programme for world-wide campaigning to market Jordan's tourist attractions be ready in advance.

In outlining the most prominent achievements last year, Dr. Adwan said that the ministry had set up a higher committee charged with the development of the Petra region which includes implementing infrastructure and services projects and organising tourism activities in this area.

3 suspects arrested in Karak for Ghor Safi child murder

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three suspects accused of sodomising and murdering a four-and-a-half-year-old boy at Ghor Safi in the southern Jordan Valley region have been apprehended by Karak police and are currently awaiting trial, according to Karak Police Department Director Brigadier Fayez Qablan.

Addressing a press conference in Amman Thursday, Brig. Qablan disclosed that

the murder victim, Ali Al Ushush, was attacked by three young men aged 19 to 24, who he identified as Yousef, Mohammad and Ra'ed.

According to Brig. Qablan, the three suspects had come across the toddler who was searching for his father. The three young men said they offered to take the boy to his father, Brig. Qablan added.

The suspects, said Brig.

Qablan, admitted to sodomising, strangling and stabbing Ali in a building under construction only 20 metres from the child's home in Ghor Safi.

The boy's body was discovered the day following the murder by his aunt.

A Karak police official Friday told the Jordan Times that the suspects had previous criminal records and were known in the Ghor Safi area as trouble-makers.

WHAT'S GOING ON

* German film entitled "Abgeschminkt (Making Up)" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

* Portuguese film at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

* Lecture in Arabic "Russia: Where To" by Mr. Jalal Al Mashtah at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

* Engraving exhibition by artist Jean-Pierre Placemin at the French Cultural Centre.

* Exhibition entitled "Modern and Old Ceramics and Glass" by artists Hamed Rashed and Inan Khalifeh at Goethe-Institut.

* Exhibition by German artist Allona at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Photo exhibition entitled "Spring Breezes From Jordan" by Dr. Zubair Mohsen at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* The Jordanian Comprehensive Medical Fair '94 (displaying medical and drug industries, medical appliances, computer and X-Ray equipment, and dental equipment) at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel.

* Exhibition by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at the Italian Language Centre (9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 669348).

* Exhibition of Zalloum foodstuff products at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Exhibition by Egyptian artist Shalabiya Ibrahim at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 678589).

* Exhibition of spring paintings by Dr. Ali Al Ghoul at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

* "Spring Exhibition 1994" at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery (Tel. 699914).

* Exhibition by artist Perween Al Sarraf at Aba'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 819861).

* Exhibition by Iraqi artists Hayfa Habbib and Farouk Hassan at Alla Art Gallery (10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.).

* Exhibition of Jordanian

herbs at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Flower exhibition entitled "The Flower Bridge Between Jordan and Palestine" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman (10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.) (Tel. 679166).

* Art exhibition by artist

Ahmed Nawar at Balka' Art Gallery in Fuhels (daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 720902).

* Jordanian-Iraqi contemporary exhibition by over 80 artists at Aln Art Gallery in Wadi Saqra (9:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 644451).

Jordan Times
Tel. 667171

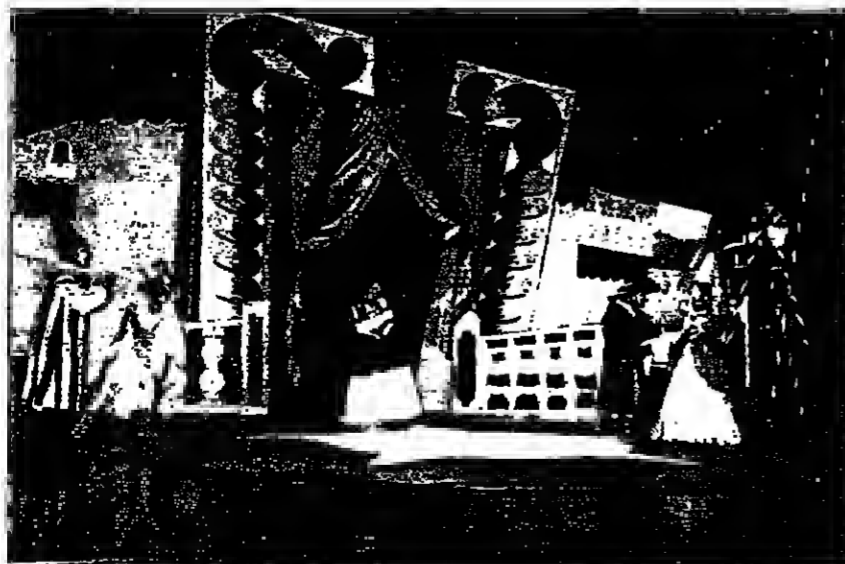
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U.S. presses Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

the PLO recognised one another last September, Mr. Arafat committed himself to condemning acts of violence against Israeli civilians.

Mr. Arafat was recently described by Mr. Christopher as "the indispensable figure" in the Palestinian movement.

Mr. Christopher told a congressional committee Mr. Arafat was "the political leader, but he is also the flag and the star spangled banner all wrapped into one person."

In its Thursday statement, the PLO voiced regret over the car bombing in Afula and urged Israel to implement the peace accord as soon as possible.

"The PLO expresses its regrets for the incident in Afula and which cost the life of a number of civilians," said an official statement issued from the Cairo guest palace where Mr. Arafat was staying.

It said the recent violence, including the Hebron mosque massacre, confirmed the urgent need for concrete steps to implement the Palestinian self-rule accord.

"While the PLO presents its condolences to the families of the civilian victims it hopes that all the parties will bear their responsibilities to protect the peace process and achieve the aims for which this process was launched," the PLO added.

Responding to comments by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who criticised Mr. Arafat for not condemning the attack, Arafat adviser Marwan Kanafani told Reuters in

Cairo:

"We are astonished to hear such an argument from Minister Peres when neither himself nor Prime Minister (Yitzhak) Rabin showed any kind of regret or condemnation when the Israeli army and the Israeli intelligence units assassinated deliberately six young Fateh leaders in Gaza last month."

Mr. Peres said in remarks broadcast by Israel forces radio and monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) "I hold a grave view of it and regret it. I believe he should have reacted. Furthermore, some of the PLO leaders have reacted."

"At the same time it must be absolutely clear: Just as we well not hesitate to take every step against terrorism, we will not stop, not even for a minute, the negotiations for an arrangement in Gaza and Jericho."

Mr. Peres said the autonomy talks could be completed by the end of the month and that there was "a good possibility" that Mr. Arafat could move to Jericho in the first week of May.

Israeli and PLO negotiators have overcome all but 10 to 15 per cent of the problems, he told France-3 television, but it would not be possible to reach agreement for an Israeli pull-out on April 13, the date Mr. Arafat had insisted on.

"April 13 is impossible... I hope we still complete the negotiations towards the end of the month," Mr. Peres said. "Two or three more weeks will not change history."

Occupied lands under siege

(Continued from page 1)

peacekeeping, spurred calls for a suspension of negotiations with the PLO on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

Despite the angry mood, Mr. Ben-Ami said ministers decided to pursue peace talks and Israeli delegates will attend negotiations as planned in Cairo Sunday.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, speaking to an emergency meeting of the ruling Labour party late on Thursday, rejected right-wing calls to suspend talks on implementing the long-delayed withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho in the West Bank.

"We do not intend to stop, or to slow, or to change the talks on Gaza and Jericho," he told an emergency party meeting. "Any stoppage, slowing, or change is a net victory for Hamas, and a gross encouragement to all terrorists."

At highway junctions and town squares, Israelis angered by the killings held rallies, branding Mr. Peres and Prime Minister Rabin traitors, calling for their resignations, and

chaotically "Death to the Arabs."

Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for Thursday's Ashdod shooting, in which an 18-year-old Arab from a Shari refugee camp in the nearby Gaza Strip sprayed fire from an Uzi submachinegun at people waiting for a bus. He was shot dead by bystanders.

The closure would likely slow down the handover of army and police facilities in the two areas scheduled to come under Palestinian control, the weekly newspaper Shishi (Friday) quoted officials as saying. Under the September agreement, April 13 was the target date for starting autonomy.

The officials were quoted as saying the number of soldiers required to enforce the closure would subtract from those working on dismantling equipment. The pullout had been going at a hectic pace before the attacks.

There were scattered clashes throughout the occupied territories. A 15-year-old Palestinian boy from Balah in the West Bank was shot dead Thursday night by soldiers after he threw stones at them, the army said.

Japanese premier resigns

(Continued from page 1)

gave no prior warning to his coalition partners, who were struck dumb for 10 minutes after he hit them with his bombshell at the Friday midday meeting.

"I consulted my wife last night but no one else," Mr. Hosokawa said later in announcing his departure to the nation.

Coalition leaders went into damage-control mode on Friday night, holding the first of what promises to be a series of acrimonious meetings to try to choose a successor.

They broke up after two hours agreeing to reconvene on Saturday. The process looked likely to drag on into next week.

Word that Mr. Hosokawa was to quit raised fears that the fractious eight-way alliance would be pushed towards a break-up over the choice of a new front man, after going to the brink three times since December over deep policy differences.

"They need time because there are two opposing camps, one backing Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata for the leadership and the other behind Chief-of-Staff Masayoshi Takemura," said columnist Minoru Morita.

"I think Hata has a good chance," he said. "If that doesn't work out, Hata's backroom patron Ichiro Ozawa may decide to dissolve the coalition and create a new grouping to include members of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)."

Leaders of coalition parties ranging from conservative to hard-left moved swiftly to quash talk of a rift.

"We're meeting to agree on the formation of a new cabinet and a successor (to Hosokawa)," said Tomoichi Murayama, leader of the Socialist Party, the largest in the alliance.

"We (the socialists) aren't going to be inflexible over picking a new leader," he told a news conference. "If we do that we risk falling out."

Kozo Watanabe, a senior member of the influential Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), denied reports his party wanted the coalition dissolved so as to bring in Michio Watanabe, a prominent politician of the once-dominant LDP.

"We need a strong government to continue with all the tasks facing us on the domestic and international fronts and that will be our main preoccupation," Kozo Watanabe said.

Israeli soldiers hangle Jackson

(Continued from page 1)

roadblock in the West Bank town of Bethlehem over the flags but proceeded with them.

During the trip, Mr. Jabari pointed out the Jewish settlements that he said Israel wanted to incorporate into Jerusalem.

As the bus reached the outskirts of Hebron, Mr. Jabari drew Mr. Jackson's attention to an army vehicle driving about 200 metres in front of the bus, and two border police jeeps that were several hundred metres behind it.

"This is typical for the Israelis," Mr. Jabari said.

Japan military still haunted by WW II

By Eugene Moosa
Reuters

TOKYO — A futile debate stemming from World War II still haunts Japan's military at a time when it must evolve into a realistic force of the post-cold war era, an influential military analyst says.

Kensuke Ebata, a military writer and commentator, said a 1990 remark by Toshiki Kaifu, who was then prime minister, captured Japan's mentality on defence matters.

"We will not send the Self-Defence Forces (military) to dangerous places," Mr. Kaifu told parliament during his vain attempt to send Japanese support troops to Saudi Arabia just before the 1991 Gulf war.

Last month, Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa launched a review of the 1976 National Defence Programme Outline, a document that spelled out the strength and role of the military, the Self-Defence Forces, in the cold war era.

By July Mr. Hosokawa's panel of academics, industrialists and retired generals is expected to recommend a new programme outline to streamline the military and clarify other roles, such as U.N. peacekeeping and overseas disaster relief.

Mr. Hosokawa asked the panel to take into account geopolitical changes since the end of the cold war, along with new economic realities and rapid advances in science and technology.

Few experts, certainly not Mr. Ebata, believe the panel will address the most important question: How to combat the lingering "military allergy" of most Japanese, overcome their habit of slipping into simplistic "defence-offence" arguments and draw them into a realistic debate on security issues.

"Japan's military has been plagued by this meaningless debate on 'defence' and 'offence' or bow not to become involved in actual fighting, anywhere," Mr. Ebata said. "But the outside world knows there is no such thing as safe wars or pure defence," he said in a recent interview.

The 1976 programme outline called for a force capable of repelling a "limited" invasion, 180,000 army troops, 60 destroyers and 18 submarines for the navy and 13 combat squadrons in the air force, the targets have been met.

Japan, it said, must solidify its alliance with the United States, meaning Tokyo would depend on U.S. forces for protection in exchange for bases on Japanese soil.

All that is changing with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the U.S. "drawdown" of its overseas forces, and louder calls for Tokyo to

share the burden of global peacekeeping.

The 1976 outline meant the government could spend lavishly on defence, so long as frontline strength was kept within the ceiling. In effect, spending doubled by the late 1980s and by Western standards, which include military pensions. Japan's military outlays now rank second in the world.

Mr. Ebata said one problem with the outline was the setting of frontline target figures, which denies flexibility and so has been abused by the military to escape public debate.

The air force has increased the complement of aircraft per squadron, from 18 to 24, to give it more fighters but remain within outline strength. The navy retires submarines after 18 years in service, or about half the life span of an average ship in other navies, so as not to violate the paper ceiling.

"No other navy does things like that," said Mr. Ebata, "and aircraft per squadron, that's the wrong way around, they have been reduced in other countries."

The military goes out of its way to shield its business from public view, partly because there is no law protecting state secrets but mainly to avoid debate.

The defence-offence argument dates back to 1950-1953 Korean war when Tokyo twisted constitutional logic to establish a full-blown military at Washington's behest.

Japan's 1947 "peace" constitution bans possession of "sea, land and air force" and prohibits the state from settling international disputes with military force.

The government argued the constitution did not deny the right to self-defence, thus the modern Japanese military got its name, but also its illogical public mission.

Fighter planes were stripped of "offensive" devices such as bomb sights and ports for in-flight refuelling. There is no thought of what to do if they had to attack an invading army.

More importantly, the constitutional debate has forced the government to shun "offensive" military alliance. Such reluctance could affect Japan's possible participation in future U.N.-sanctioned "peacekeeping" operations.

Japan, with Germany, seeks a permanent U.N. Security Council seat. Opponents criticise Tokyo's inability to take part in such military operations as the Gulf war.

Mr. Ebata has just completed a detailed, two-volume study of the security situation around Japan, identifying a dozen key areas where a shooting war could flare up.

Hariri to amend

(Continued from page 1)

Salim Hoss, a Sunni Muslim who heads an eight-man parliamentary bloc, called the bill an "attempt to strangle freedom."

No date has been set for a parliamentary session. But more than 40 of the house's 128 members already have come out publicly against the proposal.

Maronite Catholic member Fuad Saad, one of 16 who signed a petition against the bill, said press and other freedoms "are the cornerstone of Lebanon's existence."

The government's confrontation with the media began after the Feb. 27 church bomb explosion that killed 10 worshippers in the Christian heartland north of Beirut.

The government has since barred dozens of privately owned television and radio stations from airing news or political programmes. Only Beirut's state-run broadcasting network was exempt.

The government maintains the church bomb was part of a conspiracy to destabilise and partition Lebanon into sectarian mini-states.

Information Minister Michel Samaha, trying to justify the media crackdown, has said the country is "in an exceptional situation that requires exceptional measures to fortify security and civil peace."

Mr. Tuem, in a front-page editorial, appealed to President Elias Hrawi to declare the bill a violation of freedom of expression guaranteed under the constitution.

'Reports of the death of next Italian government premature'

Berlusconi, Bossi likely to resolve quarrel

By Stephen Addison
Reuters

ROME — Reports of the death of the next Italian government are premature, politicians and analysts said after Silvio Berlusconi's dramatic decision to break off talks with his right-wing allies.

Despite the tycoon's head-on clash with Northern League leader Umberto Bossi over federalism and the premiership, some form of compromise is likely to emerge, they said.

"I've spoken to them both and I'm convinced that despite appearances a government can be formed," said Raffaele Costa, leader of the small union of the Centre Party which campaigned with Mr. Berlusconi's "Freedom Alliance" in the elections.

But delay seems inevitable and Italy's 53rd post-war administration is unlikely now to take office before mid-May, several political commentators say.

It may also be fatally flawed by the innate antagonism of Mr. Bossi and neo-Fascist Gianfranco Fini, the other main partner in Mr. Berlusconi's tripartite alliance.

Federalism will be the fault line of the next government, as Mr. Fini indicated in an interview with La Repubblica newspaper.

"I don't want a government which Bossi brings down as soon as he sees something he doesn't approve of, like perhaps the first time we make a law which helps the south," he said.

Mr. Fini, like Mr. Berlusconi himself, has hinted that the standoff may best be resolved by a fresh general election.

But the expense and the damage likely to be caused to financial markets by another prolonged campaign and power vacuum make that an unlikely option, according to most political analysts.

Much better, they say, to go back to the country when Italy's imperfect electoral reform has been refined to do away with the present awkward mix of majority and proportional voting and make sure a stable government can be elected.

Despite Mr. Bossi's unswerving commitment to introducing a federal structure and Mr. Fini's espousal of a strong central state, some signs of compromise have emerged.

Roberto Maroni, League leader in the outgoing Chamber of Deputies, recently called on state television for a wide-ranging conference to resume negotiations.

Mr. Fini himself has spoken of a possible devolution of power allied to a



BASKING IN VICTORY: Silvio Berlusconi

greater role for the nation's president.

"I think in the end Bossi will have to come quietly," said one diplomat.

Attention this week will be firmly on the fiery League leader to see whether his dogged stance on federalism has broad support among northern voters and League members of parliament.

A survey published in Famiglia Cristiana Magazine, says as many as 40 per cent of League voters want to see Mr. Berlusconi as prime minister.

League deputies seem to be solidly behind Mr. Bossi, convinced that no real change can come in Italy's discredited political system without a move to federalism.

Mr. Berlusconi himself, however, told La Stampa

newspaper recently he had spoken to League deputies who were unhappy at the confrontational way Mr. Bossi had entered the government talks.

Political analysis now awaits Mr. Bossi's appearance at next Sunday's big League rally in the northern town of Pontida.

They are also looking for signs of how President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro is thinking after Mr. Berlusconi broke off talks and asked him to choose a prime minister.

Italian presidents have the ultimate responsibility of choosing a premier but in the past the decision has usually been effectively made for them after much haggling behind closed doors by political parties and parliamentary leaders.

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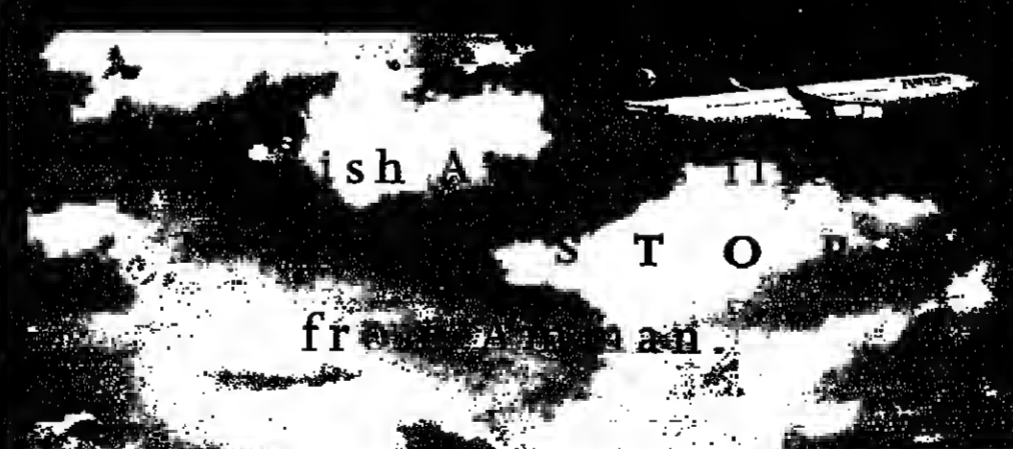
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2. Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply, delivery, full installation and on site successful operation locally and remotely of the following computer systems:

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- System software packages for the operation of all systems, including, open operating system that includes electronic mail, monitoring and administration. Interconnection between servers through appropriate network software in accordance with a standard industry latest communication software and protocols such as TCP/IP protocol, OSI, X.25 etc.; necessary software drives to communicate with different systems, and

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3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the Tendering Division of HUDC, at the following address:

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Amman, Jordan
Fax no. 962-6-883197/828938
Tel. no. 962-6-899361/644307

4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of: JD 75 (Seventy Five Jordanian Dinars).

5. This tender will be a two-stage bidding procedure as followed. The first stage bid will consist of a technical bid only, without any reference to prices, and a list of any deviations to the commercial and contractual conditions set forth in the bidding documents a bidder wishes to take and justification therefor. The second stage bid will consist of (a) a revised technical bid incorporating all changes required by the purchaser to bring the technical bid up to an acceptable level, or necessary to reflect any amendment to the bidding documents issued subsequent to submission of the first stage bid, and (b) the commercial bid.

All first stage technical bids must be delivered to the offices of HUDC not later than 12:00 noon on MAY 28, 1994 and will be opened immediately thereafter in public in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

Eng. Yousef Hlasat
Director General

Economists see bright spots in Hosokawa resigning

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's decision to resign has cast shadows over Japan's economy just when it looked poised for a fragile recovery, but some economists saw a silver lining in the clouds.

Japan has been stuck in a slew of economic wrangles, including a stalled debate on the budget for the business year that started on April 1 and deadlocked trade talks with the United States.

The immediate effect of Mr. Hosokawa's decision to resign Friday is to cloud the outlook for policy decisions, something economists said could hamper the incipient recovery.

"This leaves certain question marks, such as the shape of the cabinet, how soon an election will be called, whether the Liberal Democratic Party will continue its tactics and how business sentiment will be affected," said Robert Feldman, chief economist at Salomon Brothers Asia.

"On the economic side the budget looks unlikely to pass soon, the United States won't know to whom it's talking, there is the tax issue and implementation of Japan's latest package of market-opening measures could be delayed," he said.

Mr. Hosokawa, who swept to power last August pledging to clean up politics and cut through the red tape that hampers economic growth, said he was resigning to take responsibility for a row over controversial personal loans that paralyzed parliament.

Business groups immediately called for political stability and the quick formation of a new cabinet. Pessimists worried political turmoil could hinder a long-awaited economic recovery.

"I think it's bad for the economy," said Paul Summerville, director of Asian research at Lehman Brothers Japan. "It adds an element of uncertainty at a pretty delicate period."

Signs have emerged the economy is bottoming out, boosting hopes of a consumer-led recovery later this year, but that recovery is vulnerable to the strong yen, while corporate capital spending, another vital growth engine, is still weak.

"There are signs the economy is improving slightly and this is an extremely important time for the economy," said Masaru Takagi, chief economist at Fuji Research Institute. "If the cabinet resigns en masse, the political vacuum



Morihiro Hosokawa

will continue. In that case, nothing can be done about this year's budget, so there is a worry about the impact on the economy," he pointed out.

Domestic political confusion could also bolster the yen if U.S.-Japan trade relations worsen as a result — a negative for exporters' profits, some economists said.

But some economists saw potential benefits from Mr. Hosokawa's political demise.

Despite being plagued by feuding, Mr. Hosokawa managed to pass a long-promised political reform package, open Japan's closed rice market a crack to help world trade talks and cobble together a big economic stimulus package in February.

But he then stumbled badly when angry coalition partners forced him to withdraw a tax reform plan, including a new value-added tax.

Also, despite Washington's early hopes, Mr. Hosokawa was unable to improve tense U.S.-Japan trade ties, which frayed further when he failed to iron out key economic disputes at his Feb. 11 summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Optimists said Mr. Hosokawa's fall might in fact cure the budget paralysis that has gripped the government.

And while no one held out hopes of soon unearthing trade ties with the United States, some predicted Tokyo's turmoil could persuade Washington to tread softly.

Tax reform, meanwhile, could go ahead since the Socialists, the coalition's largest member, have already given the nod to an eventual hike in the nation's three percent sales tax.

"Broadly speaking, I think the effect is positive," said Geoffrey Barker, economist at Baring Securities (Japan).

Short-term, bureaucrats are likely to tighten their grip on policy, a fact which once would have inspired confidence, but now raises fears of delays in the deregulation desired by both domestic business and foreign trade partners.

Even so, the deregulation trend is unlikely to be reversed, Mr. Barker said. "I regard deregulation as a groundswell and unstoppable. It will come anyway."

Strong U.S. jobs report boosts dollar against European currencies and the yen

This report by Naser Nabulsi, private client group Merrill Lynch-Dubai, analyses movements and trends of key world currencies. Prices are given as at Wednesday, April 6, 1994

Overview

Fundamental view: A remarkably strong U.S. jobs report for March has boosted the dollar against European currencies and the yen. The Deutschmark no longer holds much of an interest rate advantage over the U.S. dollar except for very short maturities, and that remaining advantage is likely to disappear over the course of the year.

We continue to expect the dollar to rise against European currencies over time in response to a decline in German rates that should exceed market expectations.

We expect the yen to remain strong as part of U.S. policy to boost exports and narrow Japan's huge current account surplus. We maintain our 12-month targets of JPY/USD 95 and DM/USD 1.80.

Technical view: The U.S. dollar was on the defensive during the first quarter of 1994 as the greenback lost ground against five of the six major currencies that we most regularly monitor. At this point, sentiment for the dollar is near oversold. However, medium term momentum remains weak.

We continue to think that this latter indicator has the potential to remain down for a few more weeks, suggesting that the dollar index will continue to be under pressure — possibly short term rallies notwithstanding. First support remains indicated at the 92.80 area. Resistance at 94.90-95.80 is the primary focus for the time being.

Pound sterling

Fundamental view: The British pound rebounded against the Deutschmark in recent trading to DM/GBP 2.52, breaking a downward trend begun in early January. We expect the pound to rise to DM/GBP 2.65 in 12 months as short-term DM interest rates fall by 150 basis points compared to little change in sterling rates. We now expect no further reductions in the base interest rate because markets responded

unfavourably to the last cut, which was believed to be politically motivated. Thus upcoming elections in May and June would preclude a cut at this time. The pound also appreciated against the dollar this week to U.S.\$/GBP 1.47.

We expect the pound to depreciate to U.S.\$/GBP 1.47 in 12 months as short-term dollar interest rise moderately.

Technical view: The British pound advanced a relatively modest 0.4 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the first quarter. Sentiment continues to deteriorate, but remains neutral. Moreover, the currency remains in its multi-month trading range, and momentum continues to offer much definition (although there is a slight upward bias). The lower end of the trading range at 1.46 U.S.\$/£ is support; a break below that would allow for at least a test of the 1993 low near \$1.43 and possibly long term support at \$1.40-\$1.42.

The \$1.50-\$1.51 range is the viewed as first resistance. A rally through second resistance at \$1.55 would set the stage for a challenge of the long term benchmark at \$1.60. The DM cross-rate continues to trade below 2.50 and momentum oscillators remain weak. A break below 2.485 would sent the stage for a challenge of 2.43-2.44. Resistance is at 2.53-2.56.

Deutschmark

Fundamental view: A stronger-than-expected report on U.S. jobs in March has lent support to the dollar by boosting U.S. bond yields substantially across the yield curve. Accordingly, the interest rate advantage of German fixed income securities has basically disappeared except for the very shortest maturities, and that remaining advantage should vanish over the course of the year. With the Fed now expected to boost the Federal funds rate to 4 per cent by the middle of the year while Germany continues to ease monetary policy, the dollar should rally further in coming quarters. Although the German economy has probably bottomed, industrial production has basically remained flat since the first half of 1993 and disinflationary forces remain intense. With German wage unions having accepted real wage cuts in recent negotiations, the stage is set for inflation to fall to 2 per cent or under next year. That should permit German short-term interest rates to fall to 4 per cent even as U.S. short-term interest rates rise

Russian nuclear industry threatened by debt crisis

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's nuclear power chiefs asked the government for help Friday to resolve a financial crisis that threatens to undo progress in improving safety since the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

"We have to think about the safety of nuclear power stations. We are working at the limit," said Gennady Schchapov, head of the Kalinin plant in central Russia, at a meeting of senior government and nuclear industry officials.

Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Khlobov told the meeting that safety standards were steadily improving but reactors had barely enough fuel to keep working until summer.

"A special credit should be allocated for fuel," he said, without saying how much cash the government should offer. Other industry representatives said reactors could be shut for want of resources. They called for emergency funds for fuel and other urgent needs.

The meeting discussed a draft government resolution proposing a big injection of funds to help the nuclear sector back on its feet.

Since the 1986 explosion and fire at Ukraine's Chernobyl plant spilled radiation over much of Europe, the former Soviet nuclear industry has struggled to restore its image and obtain investment funds.

Mr. Mikhailov said Russia's nine atomic power plants were owed more than 450 billion roubles (\$250 million), mostly by the electricity giant EES Russia.

For their part, the power plants owed 395 billion roubles

(\$220 million), including 67 billion (\$40 million) for fuel and 19.5 billion (\$11 million) for salaries, he said.

Nuclear workers, many of whom have not been paid for three months, picketed the Russian government's white house headquarters this week.

"We cannot ensure safety when operators are hungry," one union representative told the meeting, which was open to reporters.

Mr. Mikhailov said power stations could keep functioning on existing resources until about the middle year.

The draft resolution suggested a credit of 50 billion roubles (\$28 million) to help EES Russia, a virtual monopoly electricity supplier, settle its accounts with power stations.

The resolution also called for unspecified budget support for nuclear plants to help them pay fuel debts.

Other proposals included deferral of federal taxes and creation of "extra-budgetary investment funds" and possible long-term investment credits.

The nuclear officials also favoured breaking up the virtual monopoly of EES Russia, allowing stations to deal with regional bodies instead.

Fuel and Energy Ministry Yuri Shafarik said he favoured a tougher stance towards non-payers. He cited the example of Ukraine, where threatened cut-offs in Russian oil and gas supplies have prompted efforts to pay debts.

"The economics ministry and others must examine the non-payers, assess the state of their finances," he said.

Greenspan: Americans' 'foreboding' rooted in widening income gap

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A widening income gap has Americans fearful of the future despite generally good economic news, Federal Reserve (Fed) Chairman Alan Greenspan has said.

The head of the U.S. central bank avoided any discussion of interest rates or the stock market's recent gyrations in his address to the annual conference of the six-state Federal Reserve district based in San Francisco.

Instead, he gave a long-range and generally upbeat assessment of the U.S. economy — but said polling data shows the public doesn't share his optimism.

"There seemingly inexplicably remains an extraordinarily deep-rooted foreboding" about the future, Mr. Greenspan said. "Half those polled expect the next generation will face lower living standards."

The basis for the gloomy outlook appears to be the increasing income gap between rich and poor Americans, which has widened in the last 20 years after narrowing for

several decades before that, he said.

"Income distribution has begun to disperse in the United States," with the wages of production workers dropping in real terms.

High-tech developments such as the growing role of computers have put a premium on education, widening the income gap, but the same technology should eventually begin closing it, he said.

Increasingly sophisticated software will allow even illiterate workers and consumers to operate simply by pressing buttons with pictures above them, Mr. Greenspan said.

Sophisticated computer analyses that took Mr. Greenspan weeks to prepare a decade or so ago can now be performed by a clerk in an hour or two, he noted. That trend should raise the productive power of the less educated.

"Are we doomed into a much more dispersed income with all of the difficulties one would consider that that would create? Probably not," the Fed chairman said.

Brazil to give priority to fighting inflation

BRASILIA (R) — The Brazilian government's top priority is to bring down inflation, currently running at over 40 per cent a month, Economy Minister Rubens Ricupero has said. "The absolute priority at this moment is the fight against inflation. Without stability there is no salvation," he emphasised. Mr. Ricupero stressed economic stability was not the ultimate target but a necessary condition for lasting growth. He promised to provide continuity to the economic plan implemented by Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY APRIL 9, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Forget romantic and idealistic matters today and put your concentration and attention toward working out a specific plan that will give you future benefits and secure any loose ends in your financial spectrum.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study a new philosophy that could serve you well in the future. You are able to get the backing you need now for a proposed new project.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Strive to have more rapport with mate. Take time to study a new project that could mean increased income in the future for your family.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Make plans to gain personal goals. Look over your surroundings and make needed improvements to your residence. Take health treatments.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A good day to enjoy the company of congenial friends. Avoid a situation that could lead you into trouble with those in charge.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Plan the recreations that will relieve tensions you are under. Don't lose your temper over a situation that displeases you or trouble comes.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Have a long discussion

with family members and come to a fine agreement for the future. Show that you have wisdom to handle any situation.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) State your views with friends and come to a better understanding with them. Plan how to be more productive in the future where your work is concerned.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Show good sense in handling monetary affairs. Doing something thoughtful for others gains their goodwill and utmost cooperation.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Pursue your aims in a positive fashion and get excellent results. Take the right steps to gain a personal wish which you desire.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Know what your goals are and make long-range plans to gain them. Rid yourself of stumbling blocks in the path of progress for you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A good day for being your gregarious self and furthering your aims which can be reached now with less effort than usual upon your part.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Contact influential persons you know and discuss how to become a more important person in your community especially to those in authority.

above that level. We continue to look for the dollar to rise to the DM/USD 1.80 level in 6-months time and to continue to trade around that level in 12-months.

Technical view: The Deutschmark gained 3.9 per cent against the U.S. dollar during the first three months of 1994. Sentiment has been deteriorating in recent weeks and is now viewed as overbought. Medium momentum, however, still has an upward bias and appears able to remain constructive for another three or four weeks. This suggests that, while the currency's rally trend is getting long in the tooth, it still can work its way higher.

With all of this in mind, a rally through 1.65-1.66 DM/U.S.\$ could still be enough to signal a challenge of last October's 1.59 high. Support is at 1.726-1.74. Medium term momentum for the mark/yen cross still appears to be bottoming and positive divergences are apparent. Nonetheless, the cross moved below 61 as short term oscillators in coming weeks could complete a longer term bottoming process and set the stage for an important rally. In that regard, the area near 63.00 is still viewed as both chart and momentum resistance. With the cross testing support at 60.90, a decisive break of the level would allow for a test of the February low at 59.40.

Japanese yen

Fundamental view: The dollar has strengthened to the JPY/USD 104 level in response to a remarkably strong U.S. jobs report for March. But the longer-term outlook for the yen is likely to be relatively more dependent on current account and trade policy developments than on interest rate trends. U.S. officials continue to move towards imposing trade sanctions on Japan, having rejected proposed trade concessions by the Japanese on March 29. Although U.S. officials have avoided talking the yen up, many market participants have concluded that the administration favours yen appreciation as a way of cutting Japan's trade surplus. We are neutral on the yen's prospects in the next few months.

The yen is at the middle of the 100-to-110 range that both Japan and the U.S. appear content to live with for the time being. While interest rate trends could favour the dollar as the Fed continues to push up the Federal funds rate towards 4 per cent by mid-year, trade frictions could well heat up ahead of a planned meeting between President Clinton and Prime Minister Hosokawa at the G-7 summit in Naples this July. Longer-term, persistent current account surpluses should keep upward pressure on the yen.

Even if Japan agrees to some market access measures for U.S. companies, we still expect a current account surplus of nearly \$120 billion this year. That should help the yen to continue to trade in the JPY/USD 100-to-110 range for most of this year and we expect it to reach a level as high as JPY/USD 95 by this time next year.

Technical view: The Japanese yen rallied 8.9 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the first quarter, making it the strongest currency of the six we most regularly discuss. Sentiment for the currency has been improving of late and now stands at near oversold. Medium term momentum remains constructive and we think that it has the potential to remain so into the end of this month. With the currency testing the February high at 102.50 ¥/U.S.\$, the probabilities of a rally through the year high of last August at 101.13 seems more likely.

The area around 106.40 is viewed as first support, but it should be noted that a decline through 109-110 would probably break a multi-year uptrend line.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

UNESE

PEECA

THACAT

CAUVIN

Next

WHAT THE CROCHETY DOCTOR LACKED.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GORGE SNACK COWARD TRYING

Answer: What the contestants called the cooking contest — A "RANGE" WAR

THE Daily Crossword by Glendon Patgrave

ACROSS

1 Word of disdain

5 Stock and barrel

9 Needle holders

14 Roof section

15 Herbs

16 Spiritual nourishment

17 — row

18 Make packages

19 Leaves

20 Principles

22 Mexican food

24 Burdensome

26 Afternoon refreshments

27 Liturgical vestment

29 Time phrase

34 Backbreaker

36 Silly talk

39 — want for Christmas...

40 Hindu instrument

42 Hazard

43 Bar

45 Remorseful ones

47 John Hancock

49 Himalayan land

50 Hack

52 Erased

58 Long-distance

61 Sierra

62 Me Oyl

63 Unhappy one

65 Assist in a scheme

66 More prudent

67 Jars

68 No part

69 Austere

70 Schusses

71 Let try

DOWN

1 Sauce for pasta

2 Made of certain wood

3 Like sheep

4 Brotherhood

5 Court cases

6 "Town"

7 Grouch

8 Utterly finished

9 — tale

10 Hired car

11 Module

12 Division word

13 Impudent talk

21 Male burly

23 Diversions abbr.

25 Short list

26 Devoiced

30 Beside the point

31 Invent

32 Party giver

33 Lodge members

34 Girl

35 High; prof.

36 Walk with a

37 Westward

41 Maturity

44 Desk

45 Cock-and-bull story

48 Cheating word

51 Utter failures

53 Expelled

54 Delightful dwellings

55 Excess

56 Cuts the lawn

57 Came down

58 Rebel

59 Profess

60 Hiding place

64 Lulu load

Peanuts



Mutt'n'Jeff



Serbs, Muslims continue shooting as new truce declared in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) — Muslim and Serb forces kept shooting Friday during a 24-hour truce called to help them agree a permanent ceasefire over all of Bosnia, but a U.N. officer said the level of gunfire had diminished considerably.

"There has not been a real ceasefire. They have kept on shooting and firing but at a much lower level," Major Roh Angink said, quoting U.N. observers including those reporting from the besieged Muslim enclave of Gorazde.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, meeting U.S. special envoy Charles Redman Friday, was quoted by government-controlled radio as declaring a 24-hour truce from 7 p.m. (1700 GMT) Thursday "to create conditions for military and political talks with the Bosnian Serb army."

Bosnian Serb Commander General Ratko Mladic told U.N. commander in Bosnia Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose he would also order his troops to hold fire shortly after the Muslim proclaimed their truce.

Chances of a ceasefire had looked in doubt when the Muslims refused to join talks between army commanders on a

permanent truce throughout Bosnia unless the Serbs stopped attacking Gorazde and pulled back their troops from the area.

Serb forces have seized about five per cent of the Gorazde enclave in a 10-day assault, less than previously thought, U.N. military spokesman Maj. Annink told reporters in Sarajevo Friday.

Maj. Annink told reporters that the Serbs had pushed to within five or six kilometres of the town but stopped shelling it Thursday morning. "The firing is assessed now as stationary and harassing," he said.

The new assessment was based on an initial despatch from eight armed U.N. liaison officers who arrived Thursday to help four U.N. observers, too few in number to gather much first-hand evidence in areas reported affected by fighting.

"The Serbs have gained less territory than previously thought. They did not reach the Drina, did not take any key (high) points around the town," Maj. Annink said.

But he said there were no signs of a Serb withdrawal to previous front lines demanded by the Bosnian government as

a condition for a Bosnia-wide ceasefire sought by the Serbs. The Serbs have been assaulting Gorazde for 10 days, killing 67 people and wounding 325, according to U.N. figures, and making a permanent ceasefire difficult for the government side to swallow.

Bosnia's U.N. envoy charged Thursday that information from U.N. military observers about Gorazde had been withheld from the Security Council and called for an inquiry.

A senior U.N. military source said that apart from worries over Gorazde, the Muslim's main concern about agreeing to a ceasefire was that any final agreement might freeze current confrontation lines and turn them into final ethnic borders within Bosnia.

"The Bosnian government is concerned that freezing the lines will prejudice the eventual political decision at peace negotiations on where the borders will run," the source said.

"But that cannot be our concern," he added. "A ceasefire is a political risk but to not enter into one condemns your people to a perpetuation of war. The people have had enough of it. You have to

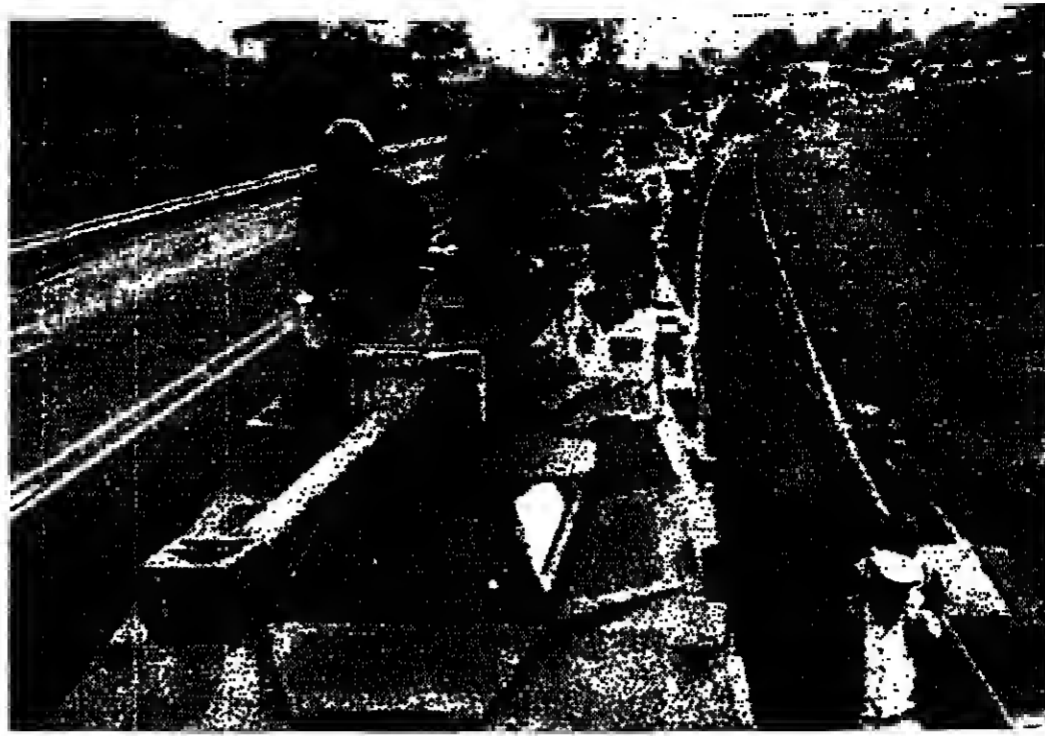
make that political gamble." Serb forces overran 70 per cent of Bosnia after rebelling against a Muslim-Croat majority vote to secede from Yugoslavia. They expelled huge numbers of non-Serbs in the process, creating deep-seated territorial grievances.

There had been speculation that Muslim leaders were avoiding the talks partly to express resentment — which has surfaced in government radio reports this week — at UNPROFOR's alleged under-reporting of the Gorazde fighting.

But Gen. Rose said he trusted the reports sent by his liaison officers, believed to be members of crack special forces and handpicked by Gen. Rose himself.

"The reports they gave last night are the first reports I regard as accurate," Gen. Rose told reporters while waiting for Mr. Redman at the Sarajevo Airport Friday.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Thursday the United States was seeking quick deployment of U.N. peacekeepers to Gorazde because they could provide a rationale for NATO airstrikes against the Serbs.



A convey of South African tanks with 700 soldiers snakes to KwaZulu in a powerful display of force on the eve of a key summit between pro- and anti-apartheid leaders (AFP photo)

Mandela charms business leaders

MIDRAND, South Africa (R) — Black-tied, hard-eyed and deep-pocketed, a creamy layer of South African big business came to meet Nelson Mandela. Many left their hearts behind with their chequebooks.

Preaching reconciliation while throwing election darts at President F.W. de Klerk, the leader of the African National Congress (ANC) wooed his audience in a glittering ballroom Thursday night, bringing 800 men and women to their feet in an ovation.

The triumph at a campaign fundraiser indicated surprising depths of potential ANC support among South Africa's super-wealthy and privileged, for decades the class enemies of the struggling masses who have made Mr. Mandela their patron saint.

"He's amazing. Twenty-seven years in jail and no bitterness," said 53-year-old printing company boss Dennis Cochiu, an Afrikaner like those in the white governments that created apartheid and persecuted the black majority.

"His sincerity is what touched me. He is one of the great statespersons of all time, in the category of Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan."

Mr. Mandela, 75, would doubtless be taken aback to find himself in the same class as the two great conservatives,

given that governments for decades had labelled him a Communist terrorist, too dangerous to the establishment to be allowed to roam free.

But he clearly enjoyed himself at the 500-rand (\$140)-a-plate dinner which contributed at least 400,000 rand (\$114,000) to the ANC's campaign war chest in its battle against Mr. de Klerk's National Party for the first all-race election in three weeks' time.

He was ushered into the ballroom, festooned with ANC colours below the chandeliers, by a choir of children singing a peace song which began "Twinkle, twinkle, little star..."

Alternately charming, witty, sober and sarcastic, he laid out the ANC's vision of a non-racial future in which blacks would be advanced and whites encouraged to stay to play a full part in the development of a democratic nation.

The dinner-jacketed men and gowned women, whites and blacks from a who's who of big business, laughed uproariously as Mr. Mandela laid into Mr. de Klerk — "the most professional squealer in the country" — and his one-time all-powerful National Party — "a mouse against the ANC's elephant."

They chuckled at his tales from the campaign trail, fell silent as he recounted the evils

of past white oppression, became sombre as he appealed for their prayers on the eve of a crucial summit with Mr. de Klerk and rejectionist Zulu leaders.

Finally, beside their silver salvers and corsages of roses in ANC yellow, they gave him a standing ovation the likes of which no South African black resistance leader had ever experienced from their rich and beautiful of his own land.

Enos Mabuza, a black executive with a brewery, said Mr. Mandela had touched all the right buttons, reassuring his audience he wanted a stable climate for international investment, and that South Africa had to retain white skills to succeed.

"I think the ANC has made more inroads to the business community than meet the eye. Quite a lot of businessmen contribute but don't say so," he said.

Sports promoter Thinus Strydom concurred.

"I'm a white South African and I'm very impressed," he said. "He will get my support 100 per cent."

Meanwhile one man was shot and killed in a shootout during a dawn raid by South African soldiers, searching for firearms at workers' hostels near Johannesburg on Friday, a military spokesman said.

Bob Hope honoured at fund raiser for U.K. museum

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (R)

Comedian Bob Hope was honoured Thursday at a black-tie fund raiser attended by Britain's Prince Andrew. Hope was the honoured guest at the \$500-a-plate dinner, which was held to raise money for the American Air Museum in Britain, which will be built at the air base in Duxford, England. "I know of no man who has done more for his country's military services than Bob Hope," said actor Charlton Heston, a pilot during World War II. "Thank you, Moses," quipped Hope, referring to Heston's role in the Biblical film The Ten Commandments.

The American Air Museum will house World War II aircraft and serve as a memorial to the 30,000 U.S. airmen killed while flying missions against Nazi Germany during the war. "It is vital that the past is never forgotten," said Prince Andrew, Queen Elizabeth's second son, who flew helicopters during Britain's war with Argentina over the Falkland Islands. "We and other generations should mark well the sacrifices of those who've gone before us."

Owner of Mrs Doubtfire house sues filmmakers

SAN FRANCISCO (R)

The owner of a house used as a set in the hit movie Mrs. Doubtfire is suing the filmmakers, alleging they cut down trees and failed to repair damage to the property, legal documents showed Thursday.

Lawyer Richard Julien rented his elegant San Francisco house for several weeks last year to the producers of Mrs. Doubtfire, which stars comedian Robin Williams as a housekeeper in drag, in return for a basic fee of \$27,000. The movie has so far grossed more than \$200 million at the box office, becoming last year's biggest box office hit, and turned Mr. Julien's Victorian house, in the upmarket Pacific Heights neighbourhood, into a tourist attraction. In a suit filed in San Francisco Superior Court this week, Mr. Julien accused the Twentieth Century Fox Film Corp and the producers, including Williams' wife

Marsha, of breach of contract, trespass and negligent infliction of emotional distress. A spokesman for Twentieth Century Fox in Los Angeles declined comment on the lawsuit. The suit alleges that the filmmakers breached their contract with Mr. Julien by using the garage as a storage site for construction purposes, allowing animals and people to use parts of the property they were forbidden to use, cutting trees they were not authorised to, and failing to repair all damage caused during the shooting of the film. The suit said Mr. Julien had forbidden the filmmakers to use bedrooms in the house, one of the bedrooms had belonged to his late mother "and he wanted to preserve that room inviolate," the suit says. Mr. Julien found children running wild throughout the second floor of the house, the suit says. Julien seeks unspecified compensatory damages, punitive damages and attorneys' fees.

Although Calloway wasn't part of the plane's crew, Federal Express often allows its employees to ride free aboard its planes if room is available. The man would be held on federal charges of attacking an aircraft crew, said Robert Wright, special agent in charge of the FBI office in Memphis.

U.S. plane lands safely after crew attacked

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A man armed with a hammer and spear gun attacked the flight crew of a federal express cargo plane before the crew wrestled him to the floor and the captain safely landed the plane.

Three people aboard the DC-10 were critically hurt and a fourth suffered less serious injuries, said Rick Roberts of the Regional Medical Centre at Memphis. The suspected attacker was among the most seriously hurt, said FBI agent Dick Marquess.

Airport authority President Larry Cox said the crew members suffered head and body injuries.

"They were very bloody," Mr. Cox said. "It looked like they had been in an explosion or a fire. It must have been hand-to-hand combat."

He said only the pilot was

still able to fly after the attack and he brought the plane in.

"The captain obviously had great skill," Mr. Cox said.

Forty-two people were killed aboard a Pacific Southwest Airlines jetliner in 1987 when a former employee who brought a gun aboard forced his way into the cockpit and shot the flight crew to death. The plane crashed in Cayucos, Calif.

Federal Express identified its plane's crew as Capt. David G. Sanders, 49; first officer James M. Tucker, 42; and second officer Andre H. Peterson, 39.

The passenger was Auburn Calloway, 42. A DC-10 second officer with Federal Express who was riding behind the crew in the plane's jump seat.

Federal Express said. No one else was on the plane, the company said.

The FBI said it did not know

what prompted the attack, but the Commercial Appeal of Memphis quoted sources at Federal Express as saying Mr. Calloway faced a disciplinary hearing Friday for allegedly falsifying his credentials when he was hired.

Mr. Calloway would probably have been fired, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

An emergency radio call from the crew indicated the passenger was trying to take control of the plane, Federal Express said.

Although Calloway wasn't part of the plane's crew, Federal Express often allows its employees to ride free aboard its planes if room is available.

The man would be held on federal charges of attacking an aircraft crew, said Robert Wright, special agent in charge of the FBI office in Memphis.

Yeltsin heads for Spain on first 1994 trip West

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin has a chance to answer lingering questions about his good health and competence next week on his first visit to the West since crushing an armed uprising last October.

Mr. Yeltsin flies to Spain for a three-day visit with no burning political issues to settle but plenty of Western doubts to stifle over his ability to keep Russia on a democratic, reformist course.

Since sending tanks to dissolve the Soviet-era parliament six months ago and forcing through a new constitution and elections, Mr. Yeltsin has not left the former Soviet Union.

Meanwhile the continuing hostility of his headline foes, freed from jail, the arms-length attitude of the new parliament, and a resurgence of coup rumours have kept international markets and Western governments on edge.

Doubts over Mr. Yeltsin's health — he is 63 and has a history of heart problems — have continually sapped confidence at home and abroad that Mr. Yeltsin's grip on the helm remains firm.

There was more confusion in the Kremlin this week over a presidential order setting up Russian military bases in neighbouring countries. Mr. Yeltsin's Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said he and the defence ministry had never seen the controversial document, and Moscow had to apologise to Latvia, included on the list by mistake.

He said only the pilot was

Russia's 'romantic embrace' with West over

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Boris Yeltsin's spokesman said Friday Russia's "romantic embrace" with the west was over.

"I would not say we are talking about a cooling of relations," Vyacheslav Kostikov told a Kremlin briefing.

"I think what has happened is that Russia, Europe and America have passed the stage of romanticism in post-totalitarian diplomacy when both sides embraced each other so tightly that national security interests were left aside."

Russia has recently expressed differences with the West over former Yugoslavia, a spy scandal has rocked relations with the United States and Moscow officials differ over NATO's partnership for peace plan.

The Kremlin has also adopted a tougher and more nationalist tone with former Soviet republics.

"Russia increasingly sees itself as a great power which has its own strategic, military and political interests, different from those of the United States and Europe..." He has started saying this loudly," Mr. Kostikov said.

"I think it is good, it is right because it will save us from disappointments or even mistakes in the future."

He proposed Friday a link between Russian entry into NATO's partnership for peace plan and acceptance of Moscow as a full member of the G7 economic grouping.

The proposal seemed likely, again, to raise uncertainty over Russia's commitment to partnership for peace. Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaly Churkin said this week Russia might sign up for the scheme on April 21, but spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov said two weeks ago Russia may take six or seven months to decide on participation.

Mr. Kostikov told a Kremlin briefing Friday he believed military cooperation foreseen by the partnership plan, already signed by three CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) governments and most of East Europe, would be difficult without economic coordination.

"How can we talk about such (military) cooperation, abstracting ourselves from economic cooperation?" Mr. Kostikov asked.

"You know that Russia wants to join G7. Why shouldn't these two problems be linked? If we are invited to cooperate in political and military spheres, why shouldn't this be expanded to economic cooperation?"

Several leaders have said they would back Russia's inclusion in G7's political deliberations, but have dismissed any idea of Russia yet being incorporated as a full member of the forum that groups the world's main industrial powers — Japan, the United States, France, Canada, Britain, Germany and Italy.

Partnership for peace provides for limited military cooperation between NATO and former Warsaw Pact adversaries. It was originally proposed by the United States as an alternative to acceptance of East European countries as NATO members.

Russia had made it clear that it would feel threatened by the expansion of the 16-nation alliance to its very frontiers. But Moscow has also proved less than fully committed to the idea of partnership for peace.

Since Mr. Kostikov's comments two weeks ago, Russian officials have presented the forthcoming signing very much as a provisional step, leaving a final decision on participation to a later date.

Mr. Kostikov suggested at Friday's briefing that the framework agreement might be signed not by Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev but by an official below ministerial rank.

The Russian government,

under pressure from nationalist and Communist critics of the partnership scheme in parliament, seems to be steering towards a somewhat tentative membership that may be viewed with some concern both in the West and Eastern Europe.

Few Russians oppose the country's participation in the partnership for peace programme established by NATO, according to results of a survey published Thursday.

The survey, conducted in late March, found that 49 per cent of Russians participating wanted their country to join the NATO programme, with 15 per cent opposed, the Interfax News Agency reported. The remaining 36 per cent of the 1,600 respondents polled nationwide were undecided.

No margin of error was given for the poll, which was conducted by the All-Russia Centre for the Study of Public Opinion.

The majority of those backing Russia's participation voted for democratic parties in last December's parliamentary elections. Pollsters said.

Opponents included pensioners and people over age 55, most of them living in small towns. Most of them voted for hardliner groups in December, the poll-takers said.

Godzilla battles Big Rex in court

LOS ANGELES (R)

Godzilla is taking on Big Rex in a new battle of the monsters.

But this contest between the gargantuan is taking place in court, not the big screen. The creators of Godzilla have sued the makers of Big Rex, claiming in a Los Angeles Superior Court lawsuit that the world is not big enough for both them.

The Tokyo-based Toho Co Ltd, creators of Godzilla, claim that Big Rex, a toy, is too much like their own toy Godzilla, from its green scales and swooping tail to its large grinning mouth. Big Rex is a product of International Toy Sales and Distribution Co., based in Detroit, and New Bright Industries Inc, a Hong Kong Corporation. According to the complaint Toho created Godzilla in a 1954 movie and made 19 sequels. The company also owns the license to merchandise the mythical monster, from toys and clothing to games and posters. The lawsuit said Toho had been damaged to the tune of at least \$1 million. It also asked that further production of Big Rex be barred and for unspecified damages. The makers of Big Rex could not be immediately reached for comment.

China detains another veteran dissident

BEIJING (R) — Police have detained another of China's veteran democracy campaigners, Xu Wenli, who was paroled last May after 12 years in prison, his wife said Friday.

Mr. Xu, who is about 50, was detained at his Beijing home early Thursday and interrogated overnight, then allowed some five minutes' freedom Friday morning before being detained again, she said.

She said police had held Mr. Xu on a 24-hour investigation warrant then re-arrested him on another.

Mr. Xu's detention comes less than a week after police seized Wei Jingsheng, known as the father of China's Democracy Movement, and said they were investigating "new crimes" he allegedly committed while on parole following his September release from prison.

The new detentions mark an increasingly tough line by Beijing against its small dissident community as debate rages with the United States over the link between human rights and China's preferential U.S. trade privileges.

The scene was tense outside Mr. Xu's home in southwest Beijing Friday.

One of the many uniformed and plainclothes police officers in and outside the walled compound forcibly stopped Mr. Xu's wife, Kang Tong, from speaking to Western journalists by dragging her away with his hand clasped over her mouth.

It was not known where Mr. Xu was being held nor why police wanted to interrogate him.

Unlike Mr. Wei, Mr. Xu was not known to have engaged in any political activities since his release.

A Beijing public security official reached by telephone said he had no knowledge of Mr. Xu's detention nor of any charges against him.

Five Western journalists who had gathered at Mr. Xu's home to investigate reports of his arrest were questioned and briefly prevented from leaving.

Police accused the reporters of "not respecting Chinese law" and said they did not have permission to enter the walled compound that contains Mr. Xu's apartment.

Mr. Wei and Mr. Xu both served long prison terms for agitating for political liberalisation during the ill-fated "democracy wall" demonstrations of 1979.

Mr. Xu, who served 12 years of a 15-year sentence, was freed last May.

Meanwhile, the Hong Kong Journalists' Association accused China Friday of breaking its own criminal laws over the jailing of local reporter Xi Yang for stealing state secrets.

Association Chairwoman Daisy Li said the 12-year sentence for Xi Yang, a China-born reporter for the Hong Kong daily Ming Pao, had also exceeded maximum terms for the categories of secrecy laws which Mr. Xi could have breached.

NEWS IN BRIEF

German envoy charged as Communist spy

KARLSRUHE, Germany (R) — A German ambassador has been charged with spying for Communist East Germany during the cold war, the federal public prosecutor said Friday. The Karlsruhe-based prosecutor's office identified the diplomat only as Rainer M. aged 40. It said in a statement that he was suspected of being a secret agent for East Berlin's Ministry for State Security — the Stasi — between 1976 and February 1990. When the envoy was arrested in January, the prosecutor's office identified him as "German ambassador in a black African state." The German media has said the suspect is Rainer Mueller, ambassador to Gabon. It is believed to be the first time a serving German ambassador has been charged with spying for East Germany, which merged with West Germany at unification in 1990. "When the suspect entered the higher echelons of the Foreign Ministry at the beginning of the 1980s, (the East German Security Service) redoubled efforts to use its contact for collecting information," the prosecutor's statement said.

Clinton says Washington works

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota (R) — President Bill Clinton is trying to prove to Americans outside the confines of Washington that work is getting done in the capital despite the distraction of the Whitewater affair. Taking the pulse of the country on a sales campaign this week to promote his health care reform effort, Mr. Clinton enjoyed friendly crowds and live local television coverage absent the often biting edge of the national news media. The president has set forth an image of a leader focusing on the problems troubling the country, listening with open ears to concerns and criticism from citizens and taking on an outsider's posture to condemn "all the hot air and rhetoric that seems to grip Washington." "One of the things that bothers me is that sometimes I think that out here in the country, folks are worried that nothing's getting done in Washington because of what they read about in the papers," Mr. Clinton told a crowd on arrival in Kansas City Thursday. What they need to know, he said, is that the economy is better and more jobs are being created. Congress is working at "a record pace" on the budget, the crime bill should not take much longer, and that he is making the big push on health care reform that voters wanted him to make when they elected him in 1992.

Major plumbs new depths in poll

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major, battling to reassert his flagging leadership in the run-up to crucial elections, plunged to new depths of unpopularity in an opinion poll published Friday. The Gallup Poll in the Daily Telegraph showed that no prime minister and no government had fallen so far and so fast in people's estimation since the organisation first started polling in Britain in the late 1930s. Only 21 per cent of those polled were satisfied with Mr. Major's performance and just 12 per cent approved of the record of the ruling Conservatives, who face being routed in local council elections next month and European elections in June. The opposition Labour Party won the support of 51.5 per cent of those polled and the Conservatives trailed badly with 26.5 per cent. Three Conservative members of parliament have called on Mr. Major to resign following a humiliating climbdown over European Union voting rights. Mr. Major's disaster-prone government has been battered by party mutinies and policy U-turns since he confounded pollsters and won the general election two years ago.

Clinton accepts resignation of Blackmun

WASHINGTON (USIA) — President Bill Clinton has accepted the resignation of Justice Harry Blackmun, declaring that the Supreme Court's senior member in stepping down from the bench "will step up into our history." Judge Blackmun, named as a conservative to the nation's highest court by President Richard Nixon in 1970, has become the court's leading liberal voice. His resignation at age 85 provides Mr. Clinton with the opportunity to make his second nomination to the nine-member body. Judge Blackmun will step down at the end of the court's current term in June. Mr. Clinton declined requests to talk about the identity of a successor to Judge Blackmun.

Kissinger: U.S. must pursue own interests

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States will continue to reel from one international crisis to another until it starts basing foreign policy more on self-interest and less on idealism, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said Thursday night. Altruism moved America to send troops into Somalia to feed starving people, but the move was of little use in resolving that country's centuries-old tribal conflicts — the cause of the food shortages, he said. After suffering 18 casualties, the U.S. government pulled out of Somalia, leaving it to return to its previous condition. Dr. Kissinger said, "We became involved in Somalia because some television network decided that it would take one case of 10 to 15 cases throughout the world of genuine starvation and add pictures," he told a National Press Club audience. "The American people, to their enormous credit, decided it was an unbearable situation and insisted that something be done. But when we started sending troops into Somalia it was when we got into difficulty." Dr. Kissinger, who spoke on his newest book, Diplomacy, said changing political realities require that the United States develop a clearer sense of its national interests.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Colombia lose unbeaten run

VILLAVICENCIO, Colombia (R) — Colombia lost for the first time in 28 games when they were beaten 1-0 at home by fellow World Cup finalists Bolivia in a low-key friendly. Mario Pinedo scored the only goal in the 55th minute of Thursday's game with a powerful right-foot shot after defender Luis Herrera had lost the ball near his own penalty area. Colombia rarely looked like troubling Bolivia's well-organised defence. Both teams were without their top players for the game because of club commitments.

Buchwald, Bein to move to Japan

LONDON (R) — Experienced German internationals Guido Buchwald and Uwe Bein have agreed to move to Japan to play in the J-League. VFB Stuttgart defensive midfielder Buchwald, an important part of Germany's 1994 World Cup hopes, and Eintracht Frankfurt midfielder Bein, a member of the 1990 World Cup squad, are both joining Urawa Reds. Both players are 33. Buchwald will join Urawa after the World Cup in July while Bein is set to move after the Bundesliga season finishes in May.

Court clears way for Torino salvage plan

TURIN, Italy (AP) — A Turin court Thursday rejected a bankruptcy petition for Torino Calcio, clearing the way for a salvage plan of the once-prestigious Italian first-division soccer club by industrialist Gianmarco Calleri. The dissolution of the Turin club had been demanded by two Turin prosecutors, in connection with the bankruptcy of former Torino President Gianmauro Borsano. While rejecting the bankruptcy petition, the Turin court ruled the release of 176,000 shares or about 80 per cent of the club's capital which were under judicial attachment and which are to be taken over by Calleri. Calleri, a former president of Lazio, recently launched a multi-million-dollar plan to save the Turin club. He is expected to be appointed president of Torino as soon as the takeover is completed. Torino has won seven Italian league titles in its 90-year history, however none since 1976.

Grobbelaar's Liverpool career may be over

LONDON (R) — Bruce Grobbelaar's 13-year Liverpool career looks like ending after the Zimbabwean international failed to agree a new contract. The 36-year-old goalkeeper was only offered a one-year deal, instead of the two years he wants, and is expected to move on. "Everything has to come to an end at some point, doesn't it?" he said Friday. Grobbelaar lost his place to ex-Warford keeper David James in February after a hamstring injury. Last season he was loaned to Stoke but returned to Liverpool for this campaign, playing 36 consecutive games.

Chinese runners pull out of London Marathon

LONDON (AP) — China's record-breaking women distance runners have pulled out of next week's London Marathon, organisers said Friday. The confirmation came one day after the Chinese team withdrew without explanation from Sunday's Bob Hasan 10-kilometre road race in Jakarta, Indonesia. London Marathon officials received a fax Friday from Huang Zhi, general secretary of the Chinese Athletic Association, saying the athletes had been unable to train recently due to "bad health." "Although we have tried very hard in many ways, the runners are still not able to bear the marathon," the fax said.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMAR HIRSCH
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CUT TO THE DEATH

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q 3
♥ K 7 2
♦ A K 3
♣ J 10 2

EAST
♠ 8 6 4 2
♥ J 9 8 5 4 3
♦ Q 10 8 6
♣ Q 9 7 5 5

SOUTH
♠ A 10 7
♥ A Q
♦ 7 5 2
♣ A K 8 4 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 6 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠.
The French word for a finesse, translated literally, means cut. But sometimes it is the user who gets nicked.

North-South were using a 16-18 point range for their one-no-trump opening bids. North, assured of a combined point count of at least 33 points and no more than 35, knew a small slam was odds on, while a grand slam was a poor bet. The optimum contract was reached in the minimum number of bids.

West led a spade and declarer saw no problem. The first trick was won in dummy and the jack of clubs was

led for a finesse. South's bubble burst quickly when East discarded a heart.

With only three tricks now available in clubs and 11 overall, declarer was forced to resort to the diamond finesse. That, too, failed and the 'slam' went down a trick.

Declarer's play was certainly right at duplicate, since it might have brought in a precious overtrick if the queen of clubs were outside. The contract was in jeopardy only on the actual distribution, but it was taking an unnecessary risk at rubber bridge. There was a way to guarantee the contract even against a 5-0 club split.

Declarer must win the spade in dummy, cross to hand with a high heart and immediately lead a low club toward dummy. If East has all the clubs, declarer will later be able to take a finesse for the nine to bring in four tricks. As the cards lie, West must play low and the ten wins.

Declarer returns to hand with a heart to lead another club, and no matter what West does, four tricks in the suit and the slam can be underwritten. Note that, if declarer wins the first spade in hand, West can defeat the contract by winning the queen of clubs on the second round and returning a heart, removing declarer's only remaining side entry prematurely.

Basketball federation today opens '94 season with U-22 championship

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The 1994 basketball season opens Saturday when nine basketball teams return to action in the first of the season's 12 scheduled local competitions — the under-22 championship.

According to the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) 1994 schedule, the season was to have commenced Feb. 12 with the All-Star tournament which was abruptly cancelled when most veterans refused to play when they learned of their exclusion from the national team following their disappointing results in the Asian Championships in Jakarta.

The JBF seems to have chosen the under-22 championship to begin the season since the competition was indefinitely postponed throughout the past season until the organisers were compelled to cancel it in 1993.

This had a negative effect on most teams, as players who were registered as just under-22 in 1993, cannot join their teams in 1994. JBF rules this year stipulate that only those born after 1973 can compete in this age group. Hence, a large number of players who had prepared to compete last year will again miss the competition.

Therefore, newcomers Al Orthodoxi, who won the last U-22 championship in 1992 have opted not to compete this year. The nine competing teams have been divided into two groups. The first includes Al Ahli, Al Abbas, Homentmen, Abu Nusair and Yarmouk. The second group includes Al Jazireh, Al Wazani, Al Gazzet Hashem, Al Wafaq, Al Anjarah, Al Mafraq and Al Husun clubs will miss the competition.

The nine teams will play a preliminary round, after which the top two teams in each group will advance to the final round in which four teams will compete for the first of the season's titles.

According to the JBF's 1994 regulations, first division teams are required to compete in at least two age groups, while second division teams in only one age group.

This year the first division includes only seven teams: Al Ahli, Al Orthodoxi, Jazireh, Jafli, Watani, Hussein and Homentmen. Two teams will be relegated in 1994 and only one team will be promoted from the second division making the total number of

competing teams only six in 1995 compared to eight until 1993.

The rest of the season's competitions are scheduled as follows:

— Third division championship May 1-21

— U-14 competition May 1-20

— U-16 competition June 10-30

— Mini basketball tournament July 1-21

— Women's championship July 3-21

— U-18 competition July 1-Aug. 7

— Second division championship Aug. 8-Sept. 7

— First division championship Oct. 21-Nov. 30.

In addition, the JBF will supervise Al Jazireh's women's basketball championship in July, and will organise a competition on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday in November and the Jordan Cup in December.

The men's national team is also scheduled to compete in the Asian Games in Hiroshima in October.

U-22 schedule of matches

Group 1 (at Sports Palace) 5 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. respectively
Sat. 9/4: Ahli vs. Yarmouk & Abbas vs. Abu Nusair
Tue. 12/4: Ahli vs. Abu Nusair & Abbas vs. Homentmen
Fri. 15/4: Yarmouk vs. Abbas & Abu Nusair vs. Homentmen
Wed. 20/4: Abu Nusair vs. Yarmouk & Ahli vs. Homentmen
Sat. 23/4: Homentmen vs. Yarmouk & Ahli vs. Abbas

Group 2 (at Yarmouk University court)

Fri. 15/4 Jafli vs. Gazzet Hashem & Jazireh vs. Watani
Fri. 22/4 Jafli vs. Watani & Gazzet Hashem vs. Jazireh
Fri. 29/4 Jafli vs. Jazireh & Watani vs. Gazzet Hashem

Harper lifts Knicks over Cavaliers

NEW YORK (R) — Derek Harper hit a 3-pointer with 6.7 seconds left in overtime to lift the New York Knicks to a 97-94 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers late Thursday.

Harper, who also began the overtime period with a 3-pointer, equalled his high point total as a Knick with 22.

Charles Oakley scored a season-high 24 points and pulled down 15 rebounds for New York, which has won 16 of its last 17 games and nine straight at home.

Terrill Brandon scored 21 points and John Williams had 18 points and 16 rebounds for the Cavaliers, who were swept 7-0 in their season series with the Knicks.

Rolando Blackman scored 14 points and Anthony Mason and Patrick Ewing added 12 each for New York, which opened a two-game lead over Atlanta in the Eastern Conference and needs one win to clinch its second straight Atlantic Division title.

At New Jersey, Derrick Coleman scored 24 points and Armon Gilliam and Kevin Edwards keyed a fourth-point surge that powered the Nets to a 95-87 victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

Kevin Willis scored 18 points to lead the Hawks, who have lost three of their last four games. The Nets have beaten Atlanta the last four times they have met in New Jersey.

New Jersey pulled even with Indiana for seventh in the conference and leads Miami by 1½ games in the race for the eighth and final playoff spot.

Gilliam scored five points and Edwards four in an 11-6 run early in the fourth quarter that stretched New Jersey's lead to 81-73. Gilliam scored seven of his 12 points in the fourth quarter.

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Lendl slumps but Sampras, Chang reach Japan semis

TOKYO (R) — Top seed Pete Sampras overcame a spirited challenge Friday to join second seed Michael Chang in the semifinals of the Japan Open.

American Sampras edged a step closer to defending his title, outlasting seventh seed Patrick Rafter of Australia 6-1 5-7 6-1.

Sampras faces 11th seed Swede Henrik Holm in Saturday's semifinal. Holm overcame a sluggish start and first set deficit to brush aside the 34-year-old Lendl.

The Czech-born American, a winner here 14 years ago, bowed out 7-5 1-6 2-6 after waiting nearly three hours before playing due to technical complications with the retractable roof at the Ariake Coliseum.

Sampras was in indomitable form, powering his heavy serve and using deft volleys and lobs to outwit his Australian opponent and extend his winning streak to 19 matches.

Sampras sped through the first set and looked poised to wrap up the match serving at 5-3 up in the second set.

"I basically rushed my service game. I was looking forward to the victory and left it slip out of my hands," the 22-year-old said afterwards. Fellow-American Chang.



Michael Chang

shrugged off the poor form which denied him the defence of his title at last week's Osaka Open to outmanoeuvre American David Wheaton 7-6 6-3.

The world number eight delighted his huge following of Japanese fans as he served and returned consistently well and executed unannounced deceptive lobs over his towering opponent at the net.

"For me, it was a good win today. I felt like I accomplished something out there, beating a guy who has won a lot of matches against me in the last three years," Chang said, referring to his last five defeats by Wheaton.

Chang next faces third-seeded Boris Becker of Germany who beat last year's runner-up, American fifth seed Brad Gilbert, 6-3 6-0.

Sabatini rallies to beat Coetzer

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida (R) — Fourth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina refused to surrender a match she seemed destined to lose and beat ninth-seeded Amanda Coetzer of South Africa 4-6 6-0 6-1 in the third round of the \$400,000 Bausch Lomb Championships Thursday.

Top-seeded Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, who defeated two-time defending champion Sabatini to win last year's title, moved into the quarterfinals with a quick 6-0, 6-2 victory over Laurence Courtois of Belgium.

Second-seeded Conchita Martinez of Spain, who won last week's event at Hilton Head, posted a 6-2, 6-3 win over 13th-seeded Leila Meskhi of Georgia.

The quarter-final pairings pit Sanchez against 10th-seeded Sabine Hack, Martinez against sixth-seeded Lindsay Davenport.

port, third-seeded Martina Navratilova against 12th-seeded Chanda Rubin and Sabatini against seventh-seeded Mary Pierce.

The sixth-ranked Sabatini is hoping to win her fourth Bausch Lomb Championships title and end a 32-tournament title drought. She has not won a tournament since taking the Italian Open in May 1992.

When Sabatini netted an easy forehand volley at 30-40 in the tenth game to yield the opening set she let out an anguished grunt that showed she is human — and that tennis without winning isn't as much fun as she keeps insisting.

"I didn't want to lose that set. That's why I screamed."

Sabatini said after the one-hour, 41 minute match. "I thought I played good tennis in that first set. I maintained my mind in the match."

After losing the first set, Sabatini won the next 10 games before the 15th-ranked Coetzer held her serve in the fifth game of the third set.

"As the match went on the score got worse and worse," said Coetzer, who has beaten Sabatini once in six meetings. "After a while I lost my cool a bit. I just couldn't get in back."

When Coetzer double faulted twice at 30-30 to lose the first game of the third set, the match was all but over.

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S. African leaders begin summit

SKUKUZA, South Africa (AP) — With just 20 days before South Africa's first all-race election, President F.W. de Klerk and Nelson Mandela began a summit Friday with Zulu monarchist leaders that was hoped to halt violent opposition to the vote.

Mr. De Klerk and the African National Congress (ANC) president met with Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini and Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi at a game camp in the Kruger Nature Reserve on South Africa's northeastern border with Mozambique.

A government spokesman said King Zwelithini arrived at Jakkels Berry Camp near Skukuza late Thursday.

He held 5½ hours of talks with Mr. Mandela and ANC officials on Friday morning before being joined by Mr. De Klerk and Mr. Buthelezi.

The government spokesman said the talks between Mr. Mandela and the Zulu king, who was accompanied by 20 Induna, or tribal headmen, appeared to have gone well.

Despite the secrecy surrounding the unprecedented summit, the issues to be discussed were well-known.

King Zwelithini and Mr.

Buthelezi are demanding a sovereign Zulu state to avoid ANC domination after the April 26-28 vote, which is expected to be won easily by Mr. Mandela's group. Opposition to the election has sparked fierce fighting between pro- and anti-election groups in Natal province, which includes the Zulu homeland KwaZulu.

The first sign were not promising. The Zulu monarch issued a pre-summit statement saying he was offended that he had not previously met face-to-face with Mr. Mandela in the four years since the ANC leader was released from prison. He also upbraided the ANC leadership for not following proper protocol in dealing with a Zulu king.

"A Zulu king is not just another black leader who should be approachable by just anybody," king's statement said with characteristic Zulu chauvinism.

Mr. Mandela planned private talks with the king before the four-way meeting to persuade him to relax his stance and possibly accept a ceremonial role as king of Natal-KwaZulu under an ANC government. Agreement on the

king's status is considered the key to the summit's success, because most of the nation's seven to eight million Zulus consider him their paramount leader.

If the king accepted a ceremonial role, that could persuade Mr. Buthelezi to back down on his demand for an independent monarchy, raising the possibility of peaceful voting in Natal.

Even if King Zwelithini and Mr. Buthelezi ended their boycott, however, they were expected to press for a delay in the election to give Inkatha time to campaign. Mr. Buthelezi already has made clear he wants the vote put off, something the ANC and government reject.

On the eve of the summit, Mr. Buthelezi stood defiant, saying neither military force nor a cutoff of funds from Pretoria would make him drop his demand for Zulu sovereignty.

"You cannot hope to successfully impose your will on an unwilling people... even with force of arms. It just doesn't work. It has not worked, and it should not work," he told foreign reporters in an interview Thursday in the KwaZulu capital, Ulundi.

Mr. De Klerk declared a state of emergency in Natal on March 31 and sent in hundreds more police and soldiers to quell political violence between supporters of the ANC and Inkatha. But at least 120 people have died since then, and the violence has cast doubt on whether a fair vote will be possible in large parts of Natal.

At a news conference Thursday, the country's chief electoral officer, Judge Johann Kriegler, rejected the idea of postponing elections in Natal while they go ahead in the rest of the country.

The summit, the first to bring together the four leaders, was called after a Zulu march through downtown Johannesburg sparked street battles March 28 that killed at least 53 people, most of them Zulus.

At least 11,000 blacks have died in political violence in the last three years, most of them in clashes linked to the ANC-Inkatha war.

Inkatha accuses the ANC of being a communist-dominated organization that will impose a dictatorship if it comes to power. It says the ANC wants to crush the Zulu culture and points to its plans to abolish ethnic homelands such as KwaZulu.



SEOUL PROTESTS: South Korean university students protest through the streets in an anti-government and anti-American protest on Friday saying the U.S. is provoking a war by inflaming a nuclear threat from North Korea. They also blamed the U.S. for opening the country's rice market to imports (AFP photo)

Massacres in Kigali

(Continued from page 1)

ly were fighting presidential guards.

A European speaking by telephone Friday said gunfire had raged nearly nonstop since dawn Thursday. "It's out of the question to go into the streets, because there's too many armed gangs," he said.

Tracers lit up the sky overnight, and heavy arms were being fired, he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Fighting on Friday included heavy weapons and mortar. French Cooperation Minister Michel Roussin said in Paris. He said more than 50 Rwandans, including ministers, high-ranking civil servants and their families have taken refuge in the French embassy, where they are being protected by about 30 French soldiers.

The Paris office of the humanitarian group Doctors Without Borders said Friday that its teams in Kigali reported the city's hospitals and clinics overflowing with wounded. Other teams reported ethnic fighting in southern Rwanda, the group said.

Prime Minister Uwilingiyimana was dragged from a U.N. compound and killed by presidential guards in front of U.N. volunteers Thursday, U.N. sources said. She had escaped to the compound after soldiers disarmed her U.N. guards when she left home, the sources said.

Ten of the slain U.N. soldiers were Belgians guarding Uwilingiyimana, said a spokeswoman from the Belgian defense ministry in Brussels. U.N. spokesman Fred Eck-

hard said in New York that an 11th body had not been identified.

The men were surrounded, disarmed, taken to a military camp, then tortured and killed, their commander, Belgian Colonel Luc Marchal, told RTBF public radio in Belgium.

The U.N. soldiers were part of a 2,500-man peacekeeping force sent to administer a peace accord between the government of the Tutsi rebel army.

The estimated 700 presidential guards are dominated by Hutu hardliners, who have been leery of the peace accord. Some U.N. diplomats said they believed the presidential guard was attempting to stop others in the government from claiming the presidency in Rwanda.

Soldier killed 11 Roman Catholic nuns and eight priests, all of them African, said Jose M. de Vera, a spokesman at Jesuit headquarters in Rome. Three Belgian Jesuits were spared, he said.

A Papal Nuncio source reached by telephone from Paris said 22 clergymen and women, all Rwandans, had been slain since the outbreak of fighting. Churches in Kigali "are full of people looking for refuge," the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Several dozen" local employees of Doctors Without Borders and other aid workers were killed by the military, many in cold blood in front of other aid workers, the group's spokeswoman, Anook Delafortie, said Friday in Belgium.

"The fighting and plundering in Kigali continues unabated," she said.

Presidential guards also kidnapped three cabinet ministers, U.N. officials said.

Sources from the U.N. Development Programme in New York said there were reports that two cabinet ministers and the president of the supreme court had been killed. Radio France Internationale cited unidentified diplomats as saying that Labour and Social Affairs Minister Landoulou Ndayishimiye had been killed.

Human Rights Watch in Washington said rights activist Monique Mojawamalya had been taken by troops and expressed fears for her life. It said she had been threatened by security police previously because she exposed abuses.

Activist Charles Shumukiga was also abducted, London-based Amnesty International said. The bloodshed began after a plane carrying the two presidents crashed while landing at Kigali's airport. Rwanda's government announced the plane was shot down "by unidentified elements in circumstances which are still unclear."

Witnesses reported hearing heavy-weapons fire moments before the plane crashed, the French embassy in Kigali said. U.N. officials said U.N. peacekeepers were prevented from going to the crash site to check on the cause.

Rwanda has been torn by divisions among ruling Hutus over the peace accord that Habyarimana signed in August calling for a new, broader-based government. Uwilingiyimana was made acting prime minister after the peace accord.

COLUMN

French media in unprecedented anti-AIDS blitz

PARIS (R) — French media mobilised in an unprecedented joint effort to fight the spread of AIDS as well as public ignorance and prejudice about the disease in the European country with the highest number of sufferers. In a rare break from the race for ratings, the seven main television channels ran a joint three-hour programme at peak evening viewing time to explain the basic facts about the virus and help raise funds for research. Professor Luc Montagnier, who discovered the AIDS virus in the 1980s told the star-studded "All Against AIDS" broadcast of his hopes that scientists would soon beat the deadly disease. "There is enormous cooperation among the world's researchers... I hope that the powerlessness of medicine will soon be over," he said. Fearful actress Madeleine Robinson disclosed her 38-year-old daughter died of AIDS last January. "We no longer have the right to hide this disease... which some still call taboo," she said. President Francois Mitterrand visited AIDS sufferers in hospital to show they should not be excluded from society. Dr. Montagnier earlier told the daily Le Figaro awareness of the AIDS danger has been late, both in the media and the political class, and the television experiment should have come earlier. The disease kills 15 people a day in France, which has the highest number of AIDS cases in Europe. There have been 32,000 since the epidemic began in 1981 and an estimated 150,000 people are known to be infected with the HIV virus which causes AIDS.

Clinton slips while jogging

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton took a spill while jogging around the tidal basin, the capital's popular spring tourist attraction with its canopy of blooming pink-white cherry blossoms. It was "just a minor slip. He dusted himself off, got back on the trail," said White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers. Mr. Clinton slipped on the moist ground along the water's edge near the Jefferson Memorial, soiling the back of his white T-shirt. George Hirsch, one of several members of Roadrunners Club of America who accompanied the president on his morning run, said the fall didn't slow Mr. Clinton down. "After he fell he picked up the pace," said Mr. Hirsch, publisher of Runner's World Magazine.

Di gets buy with a little help from a friend

LONDON (R) — The Princess of Wales was helped out by a friend when a department store told her it did not accept any credit cards apart from its own chargecard. Princess Diana tried to use a standard credit card to buy two men's shirts at a Marks & Spencer branch in the Wiltshire city of Salisbury, west of London, a store spokesman said. But the estranged wife of Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, was told the chain did not take credit cards. "Happily for the princess, one of her male friends said 'I'll pay' and stepped in," shop assistant Karen Sturges told London's Evening Standard newspaper.

Rutskoi calls Zhirinovskiy a 'clinical case'

PARIS (R) — Former Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi was quoted as saying that ultra-nationalist politician Vladimir Zhirinovskiy was "a clinical case" but could end up as president of Russia. In an interview with the French weekly L'Evenement Du Jeudi, Mr. Rutskoi said he had never met Mr. Zhirinovskiy, whose far-right Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR) won more votes than any other party in last December's parliamentary elections. "But I consider he is above all a clinical case. You only have to listen to his statements," Mr. Rutskoi said. "He is probably concerned by Russia's fate but I can't take him seriously as a politician." Mr. Rutskoi, a leader of last year's parliamentary confrontation with President Boris Yeltsin, was released from prison after being arrested in February.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel captures four unarmed 'infiltrators'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Four unarmed infiltrators crossed into Israel Friday from Jordan near a Golan Heights settlement and were captured by Israeli soldiers, the army announced. Israel Radio reported they were Iraqis seeking asylum. A patrol caught the four before dawn near Mevo Hamma in the Golan Heights, which Israel seized from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war. The crossing was near the intersection of the frontiers of the three countries. Major General Dani Yatom, head of the central command, said the group appeared to be civilians but refused to confirm if they were Iraqis seeking asylum. He criticised Jordan for letting the group slip through. "The evidence is that the Jordanian army was not able to prevent the infiltration from their territory into Israel," Gen. Yatom said. "I know that they are doing quite a bit to prevent this, but they have to draw conclusions after this infiltration." The army closed off the area, lit up the sky with flares and conducted an all-out search of the Hammat Gader hot springs where the crossing took place.

Prague blocks arms trade deal with Iran

PRAGUE, Czech Republic (AP) — The Czech government has blocked the export of military technology to Iran, which was planned by a military trading group, a Defence Ministry official said Thursday. The RDP group associating 40 Czech arms producers applied earlier this year for a licence to export maintenance technology for Soviet designed T-72 tanks to Iran, Defence Ministry spokesman Jiri Sila said in a telephone interview. But the deal was blocked by the government as it could damage Czech interests abroad, he said. According to the daily Mlada Fronta Dnes, the deal was worth \$500 million. Under current legislation, no weapons trade licence may be issued without approval by the defence, interior and foreign ministries. The legislation also applies to trade with military equipment, spare parts, maintenance and other services carried out abroad. None of the three ministries approved the deal. In 1993, the Czech Republic exported weapons and other military equipment worth \$167 million, \$17 million more than the entire Czechoslovak exports in 1992 — the year before the Czechoslovak federation split.

Group protests reporters' injuries in W. Bank

PARIS (R) — The press watchdog Reporters Sans Frontiers has said Israeli troops had wounded several journalists in the occupied West Bank on Sunday and asked Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to find out who was responsible. The French-based group said a Palestinian cameraman with Britain's WTN television was shot in the leg and a Belgian RTBF television crew and a reporter with the French newspaper Liberation were hurt by a grenade. "Our group asks you to use your influence so that military authorities respect the physical integrity of journalists and a probe is carried out to identify the authors of those aggressions," the group said in a message to Mr. Rabin.

Cloud of desert dust blankets Cyprus

NICOSIA (AP) — A dense cloud of desert dust blanketed this island Wednesday, causing complaints of breathing difficulties and poor driving visibility. The head of the meteorological services, Cleanthis Philaniotis, said prevailing winds blew in the yellowish pall from North Africa. He said the phenomenon occurs about once in five years, but is often noticeable. Wednesday's cloud was uncommonly thick. The Cyprus News reported widespread complaints of respiratory trouble by people suffering from heart ailments, asthma and allergies. It said 30 predominantly elderly people needed treatment at Nicosia general hospital.

Gunmen shoot up Kuwait University building

KUWAIT (R) — Gunmen in a speeding car shot up a Kuwait University building on Thursday, damaging a residential unit used by security guards, the Interior Ministry said. Security officers were investigating the attack by unidentified gunmen on the building in the Khaldiya area, a statement quoted by the official Kuwait News Agency late on Thursday said.

Jet scrambles aloft to check 747 landing gear

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel sent a fighter jet aloft to fly close to an El Al Boeing 747 arriving from London to check if the wheels were down after cockpit lights indicated faulty landing gear, airport officials said Friday. After circling for 90 minutes over the Mediterranean and dumping fuel the plane landed safely with just 15 minutes of fuel left. About 100 ambulances and fire trucks had rushed to the landing strip of Ben Gurion international airport shortly after 10 p.m. Thursday in preparation for the emergency landing of the plane, which had 390 passengers aboard. The aircraft twice swooped low past the control tower where projectors lit its underbelly to see if the wheels had extended. They were visible but the tower could not confirm if they had locked in place. An Israeli air force F-15 was sent up for a look, and the F-15 pilot reported that the landing gear appeared in position, said Danny Sadeh, a reporter of the Yedioth Ahronot daily on the plane. The passengers were told to crouch in crash position for landing. Among the passengers was Israeli singer Ofra Haza, survivor of an earlier plane crash. "In the last crash, we simply fell and I didn't have time to think of anything," Ms. Haza told army radio. "On this flight, we had a whole hour to think of life, family, parents. It was a very tense hour." The plane had been hit by lightning shortly after takeoff from London's Heathrow airport at 4 p.m. (1300 GMT) Thursday.

Hebron killer's widow says he felt 'unprotected'

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The widow of the Hebron mosque killer said her husband often complained the Israeli army had failed to do its job protecting Jewish settlers.

But Miriam Goldstein said in testimony given secretly on Wednesday and made public on Friday that her husband Baruch's slaughter of some dozens of Palestinians at the Ibrahim mosque on Feb. 25 puzzled her to this day.

She demanded the return of the handgun which Goldstein carried, but did not use, in the mosque and appealed to the five-member commission for information on how he died at the hands of survivors.

Police have said a Galilee assault rifle found inside the shrine was the weapon used in the killings.

"He always complained about the helplessness of the Israeli government, of the army, of the police — that they don't do their jobs properly, and that we are abandoned and our lives abandoned," she told

the panel, which issued the transcript.

She said she could not explain why her husband, a U.S.-born doctor, had turned into a killer. The couple had been married 12 years.

"It's still an enigma for me, that's the truth. All the time I am trying to turn this matter over and over, I have yet to arrive at an answer," she said. The transcript was released a day after Israeli police detained three Muslim guards who they said were on duty at the site where the massacre occurred, and refused to testify previously.

Walid Sharif, Ismail Haslamou and Mohammad Abu Salah had refused to cooperate with the Israeli commission of inquiry, believing its findings would be tainted by an Israeli bias.

Other Muslim witnesses have testified, and the three guards spoke to the commission's judges when the commission toured the site at the beginning of proceedings.

Hamas urges Arafat to halt peace talks for year

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, an opponent of any negotiated settlement with Israel, has called on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to suspend peace talks with Israel for one year, saying the group is going to intensify armed struggle against the Jewish state and force it to withdraw from the occupied territories without conditions.

Hamas, in a statement released Thursday, also assured Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), that the group would not undermine his status as president of the State of Palestine during the called-for one year period.

Obviously buoyed by the suicide attack by one of its members who killed seven Israelis and himself with a car-bomb attack in the town of Afula on Wednesday, Hamas asserted that it was paving the way for a voluntary Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

It said the Afula attack would be followed by "four other operations" in revenge for the Feb. 25 massacre of Palestinian worshippers by a Jewish settler at Hebron's Ibrahim mosque.

According to Hamas, such operations would eventually force Israel to undertake an "unconditional withdrawal" from the occupied territories. Hamas advocates a total elimination of the state of Israel. Its leaders say that all Jews should leave the land of Palestine and go back where they came from or the U.S. and Europe should absorb them as their nationals. The group says, its objective is to create an Islamic puritan state in all of Palestine.

There was no immediate explanation whether Hamas was signalling a shift in position by referring to an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories only in Thursday's statement. The statement eulogised

Ra'd Zakaneh, a member of Izzeddine Al Qassam, Hamas' military wing, who carried out Wednesday's Afula attack and conferred upon him an honorary "doctorate" — an indirect reference to Baruch Goldstein, the Israeli settler and physician who carried out the Hebron mosque massacre. Goldstein either killed himself or was killed by survivors of his attack.

Relatives of Zakaneh, who was 19, meanwhile celebrated his "martyrdom."

A gathering was held Thursday in Marj Al Hamam outside Amman, where the suicide bomber's uncle lives.

"The whole family is happy that my nephew sacrificed his life for the sake of our national cause," Ra'd Zakaneh's uncle, Walid Abdullah Zakaneh, told reporters.

He said Palestinians would like to "see more strikes on Israelis who are occupying our lands and killing our people," the Associated Press reported.

Ra'd Zakaneh, a native of the village of Qabatiya in the occupied West Bank about 10 kilometres from Afula, was released from prison a year ago and was consumed by the idea of waging "holy war" against Israel, according to a distant cousin, Ali Zakaneh.

"What he did was religious vengeance," Ali Zakaneh was quoted as saying. "He was a strong believer in Islam since he was 10 years old."

Walid Zakaneh said Ra'd was a member of Mr. Arafat's Fateh faction who switched allegiance to Hamas after the PLO and Israel signed their historical self-rule accord on Sept. 13.

According to Ali Zakaneh, the bomber was jailed for 60 days in an Israeli prison in the beginning of 1993. When he was released, he had bruises on his face and abdomen.

Ali Zakaneh said the family had gone to the Israeli human rights group B'tselem and Israeli Arab parliamentarian Hashem Mahamed to complain about his torture and abuse in jail.

Holy See plays Israeli tune

By G.H. Jansen

IT HAS been reported that the Vatican is considering cancelling or postponing the Pope's visit to Lebanon as part of a projected pilgrimage to holy sites in the Middle East. The reason given is the tension generated by Maronite militants detonating a bomb that killed 10 worshippers in a Maronite church in Beirut. That event should not impinge on a Papal visit but the further fact is that the always-troubled relations between Islam and Christianity in the Middle East have been strained because of recent actions by the Vatican and a very inflammatory statement by the Pope.

Because these relations between the faiths were inimical from the emergence of Islam in the seventh century, the crusader invasion of the Middle East in the eleventh century found the local Christians divided in their loyalties. The western Latin Christians of the Roman Catholic Church and its local affiliates, such as the Maronite church in Lebanon, allied themselves with the western invaders while the eastern Greek Orthodox Church either held aloof or joined the local Muslim rulers.

That division has remained ever since so when the Arab countries achieved their independence after World War II the attitude of the Arab nationalists towards the Christian minorities was one of politely concealed suspicion of pro-western fifth columnists. And this despite the fact that some Arab Christians had become leading figures of the nationalist movements in their countries, people like Faris Al Khoury in Syria, Makram Obeid in Egypt and Bechara Al Khoury in Lebanon.

Besides these politicians, Christian Arab intellectuals made distinguished contributions to Arab nationalist thinking. Such were and are George Antoonis, Constantin Zureik, Nabih Fares and Albert Hourani; a splendid tradition is being maintained today by Dr. Edward Said. Nor must the contribution of men like Dr. George Habash be forgotten. It is men such as these who proved that there was not necessarily any rift or gap between Christianity and Arab nationalism. That great achievement — to counteract centuries of hostility between the two ideas — Christianity and nationalism — is now being imperilled by the Vatican and the Pope.

So much so that the Pope's representative in the Holy Land, Latio Patriarch of Jerusalem, Michel Sabbah, on Easter Sunday made a statement in which he suggested that the Pope should not visit Jerusalem until the whole Arab-Israeli dispute had been settled.

The Pope's response, made on the same day as the patriarch's appeal, was in effect throwing oil on a smouldering fire. He did this in an interview he gave to an American magazine, "Parade", on April 3, the Easter issue. In this interview the

Pope said: "It must be understood that Jews who for 2,000 years were dispersed among the nations of the world had decided to return to the land of their ancestors. This is their right and this right is recognised even by those who look upon the nation of Israel with an unsympathetic eye."

A fairly obvious reference to the Arabs. Elsewhere in the interview the Pope spoke of the Jews' "right" to have their own nation in Israel.

It is the Pope's use of the word "right" that makes these fighting words and on this point the Pope is both inaccurate and misleading.

Thus, Yasser Arafat told this correspondent on at least three separate occasions that the PLO may recognise Israel but would "never, never" recognise Israel's "right to exist" or recognise the Jews' "right to return" because to do this would be to grant moral approval to Zionism and would deprive the Palestinians' and Arabs' long-term anti-Zionist, anti-Israel struggle of its moral basis.

Indeed in saying what he said about Israel's "rights" the Pope admits that he is a Zionist. And because of there could be stormy passages in his forthcoming visit to this area — if it takes place.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The Vatican in January this year finally decided to recognise Israel and to open diplomatic relations with the Jewish state. The Vatican had refrained from doing so because of Israel's claim that Jerusalem was "the eternal capital" of that state, exclusively. The Arabs knew that at some time or other there would have to be relations between the Vatican and Israel but questions were raised about the timing of the Vatican move just when the Israelis and Arabs were about to take up the Jerusalem issue.

Also it was noted that the Vatican had not made its recognition of Israel conditional on a mutually satisfactory solution of Jerusalem. The Vatican merely says that Israel should guarantee free access to Jerusalem of people of all faiths.

Soon afterwards it was announced that the Pope would be making a pilgrimage to Biblical sites in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Israel and Egypt, tentatively scheduled to begin in May. The feeling of many Arabs was expressed by Shiite leaders in Lebanon when they criticised the timing of both the recognition and of the pilgrimage. Some Christian leaders in Lebanon also criticised the move for different reasons.